



**2** Kuwait launches humanitarian campaign for flood-hit Pakistan



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# Candidates exceeded 340 with just two days left to register

42 members of dissolved house have registered • Three hopefuls withdraw

## Zain Jordan extends current frequency licenses for 10 more years, saving \$160m

Agreement signed with Jordan govt • 5G license issued for 25 years



AMMAN: Zain Group Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi and Jordan's Communications Minister Ahmad Al-Hanandeh during the signing ceremony.

AMMAN: Zain Jordan signed an agreement with the Jordanian government to extend the current frequency licenses for 10 more years. The signing took place in the presence of Jordan's Communications Minister Ahmad Al-Hanandeh and Zain Group Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi. This agreement will result in saving nearly \$160 million, in addition to issuing the 5G license for 25 years.

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: As many as 23 new candidates filed their nomination papers on Monday, raising the number of hopefuls for the Sept 29 elections to 342, with just two days left for registration. The registered candidates include 23 women. Three candidates have withdrawn their candidacies. The window for withdrawals will close on Sept 22, or seven days before the election day, as per the law.

Forty-two members of the 50-member dissolved house have registered in a bid for re-election. Of the remaining eight members, four have said they will not run, while another four including speaker of the dissolved Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem have not registered. Leader of the opposition, ex-MP Mohammad Al-Mutair, has also not registered.

Of the registered candidates, there are around 40 former MPs of previous assemblies. They include Islamists Mohammad Hayef, Adel Al-Damkhi, Ammar Al-Ajmi, Abdullah Fahhad, Nayef Merdas and others. They also include former MP Obaid Al-Wasmi, a well-known opposition leader who deserted the opposition camp just a few months before the Assembly was dissolved.

Prominent opposition figure and former MP

Bader Al-Dahoum, whose membership was revoked by the constitutional court last year, has appealed to the top court for inclusion in the electoral rolls to be permitted to contest the polls. Those who announced they will not run include veteran former MPs Adnan Abdulsamad, Saud Al-Mutairi, Abdullah Al-Turaiji and Yousef Al-Fadhalah, who resigned from the previous Assembly, but his resignation was not accepted by the house.

Ex-MP Turaiji said on Twitter that after consultations, he has decided not to bid for re-election. Former minister and ex-MP Mohammad Al-Rasheedi registered on Monday and called for adopting the Amiri address as the basis for government-Assembly cooperation. New candidate Jenan Al-Harbi called for launching an investigation into "education corruption" to eradicate fake university degrees.

The National Assembly was dissolved last month over continued disputes between opposition MPs and the government. The outgoing Assembly survived less than 20 months. The landmark Amiri address, delivered by HH the Crown Prince on June 22, pledged the government will not interfere in the elections, nor in the election of the Assembly speaker.

### News in brief

#### OPEC+ agrees oil output cut

VIENNA: The OPEC+ oil cartel agreed Monday to cut production for the first time in more than a year as it seeks to lift prices that have tumbled due to recession fears. The move could irk the US as it has pressed the group to increase output in order to bring down energy prices that have fueled decades-high inflation. While analysts had expected another modest increase at Monday's ministerial meeting, OPEC+ said in a statement that it decided to reduce output by 100,000 barrels per day in October. — AFP (See Page 8)

#### New rules for delivery companies

KUWAIT: The interior ministry announced new regulations for delivery drivers and companies, mandating every deliveryman should have a medical certificate from the nutrition authority; a sticker of the delivery company should be affixed on every delivery vehicle; the driver's residency must be from the same company; and all drivers must wear a common uniform. The ministry warned legal measures including revocation of licenses will be taken against all violators.

#### Indian tycoon killed in accident

MUMBAI: India's business tycoon Cyrus Mistry died in a road accident on Sunday afternoon at Charoti in Palghar district, about 112 km north of the country's financial hub Mumbai. The car of the former Tata Sons chairman rammied into a road divider while he was returning to Mumbai from neighboring Gujarat state, according to Palghar police. One more person among the other three travelling in the same car also died in the accident while the other two suffered serious injuries. — Xinhua (See Page 10)

## Truss named as UK's new prime minister

LONDON: Britain's new Conservative leader Liz Truss Monday vowed "bold" action to fix the country's worst economic crisis in decades, as she was confirmed as Prime Minister Boris Johnson's successor after a grueling party contest. The foreign secretary resisted pressure for a politically perilous early election to confirm her new mandate, vowing instead

to "deliver a great victory for the Conservative party in 2024".

Truss beat her rival, former finance minister Rishi Sunak, by about 57 to 43 percent after a summer-long contest decided by just over 170,000 Conservative members - a tiny sliver of Britain's electorate. Sunak - who has been lukewarm about whether he would serve in Truss's cabinet - tweeted that now was the time for the party to unite as "one family".

But Truss ignored her applauding rival as she marched up to the stage of the central London convention hall, calling it an "honor" to be elected after undergoing "one of the longest job interviews in history". "I campaigned as a conservative, and I will govern as a conservative," she said, touting Tory

Continued on Page 6



LONDON: New Conservative Party leader and incoming Prime Minister Liz Truss smiles and waves as she arrives at Conservative Party headquarters on Sept 5, 2022. — AFP

## US sims strike mission over Middle East

DOHA: The United States said Monday that two long-distance warplanes flew across the Middle East as part of a simulated international bombing exercise amid tense haggling on restoring a nuclear deal with Iran. A Central Command statement said fighter jets from Britain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia escorted the two B-52H Stratofortresses from the US Global Strike Command on Sunday.

Top US general Lieutenant General Alexis Grynkeiwich said the "Bomber

Task Force" simulation showed that the United States and its allies can "rapidly inject overwhelming combat power into the region on demand". "Threats to the US and our partners will not go unanswered," added Grynkeiwich, commander of the combined forces air component of US Central Command, an area that covers Northeast Africa, the Middle East and as far as Central and South Asia.

The general did not name potential adversaries but the United States is locked in intense negotiations over reviving a deal to limit Iran's nuclear program. The United States said last week that Iran's response to the latest proposed deal was "not constructive". Iran's foreign ministry said Monday that it had not received any official US reaction to its demands.

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KUWAIT: A US Air Force B-52H Stratofortress, assigned to the 5th Bomb Wing, flies over Kuwait City as it conducts aerial operations during a Bomber Task Force (BTF) mission within the US Central Command's area of responsibility on Sept 4, 2022. — AFP

## Suspects on the run after Canada stabbing spree

OTTAWA: Canadian police scoured Saskatchewan and neighboring provinces on Monday in a major manhunt for two fugitives suspected of car-

rying out a stabbing spree that killed 10 people and wounded 15. The killings in the James Smith Cree Nation Indigenous community and the town of Weldon in Saskatchewan are among the deadliest incidents of mass violence to ever hit the nation. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he was "shocked and devastated by the horrific attacks", adding in a statement that Canadians are mourning this "tragic violence".

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## Zionist entity admits soldier shot Abu Akleh

JERUSALEM: The Zionist army conceded for the first time Monday that it was likely Palestinian-American reporter Shireen Abu Akleh was shot

dead by a Zionist soldier who mistook her for a militant. "There is a high possibility that Ms Abu Akleh was accidentally hit by IDF (Zionist Occupation Forces) gunfire that was fired toward suspects identified as armed Palestinian gunmen," said the army's final investigation report into her May 11 death.

The acknowledgement comes after months in which the army had insisted

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## Local

# Envoy Al-Ghanim submits credentials to Arab League



CAIRO: Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt, Ghanim Al-Ghanim submits credentials to LAS' Secretary-General, Ahmad Abul-Gheit. — KUNA photos

CAIRO: Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt, Ghanim Al-Ghanim submitted his credentials to be Kuwait's permanent envoy to the League of Arab States (LAS). A statement from Kuwait's delegation to the league said that Ambassador Al-Ghanim conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to LAS's Secretary-General Ahmad Abul-Gheit. Ambassador Al-Ghanim also conveyed greetings from His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. On his part, Abul-Gheit wished Ambassador Al-Ghanim all success in his new position and in furthering Kuwait's endeavors in supporting joint Arab work and bolstering Arab relations.

Meanwhile, a new session of the Arab League Council opened on the permanent-delegate level under the chairmanship of Libya with issues such as the Arab joint action and the Arab-Zionist conflict featuring prominently on the agenda.

In his inaugural address, Libya's delegate to the League, Abdullatif Thabet said that the international arena needs to extend more efforts to create a unified Arab stance to prevent the spillover of the instability and conflicts. "Despite the challenges we face, Libya is keen to work under the umbrella of the Arab League to support the Palestinian issue," Ambassador Thabet pointed out.

He also stressed the need to focus on the principles that guide the Arab world and the UN resolutions related to the rights of the Palestinian people to help them achieve self-determination and statehood. Ambassador Thabet also voiced hope that Libya's presidency of the current session of the League Council would help reach a negotiated and comprehensive political settlement to the Libyan crisis in line with international rules.

On his part, Lebanon representative to the League and Chairman of the previous session of the Council, Ali Al-Halabi reaffirmed the commitment of Arab countries in supporting the Palestinian people's struggle for establishing an independent Palestinian state within the pre-June 1967 borderlines and with Jerusalem city as its capital. He stressed the need to establish a fair, comprehensive and permanent settlement to the Arab-Zionist conflict that could guarantee putting an end to the Zionist occupation of Arab land in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, and ensure the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes. The current session is discussing a range of political, security, legal, social, financial and administrative issues, as well as the report of the League's Secretary General on the progress of Arab joint action. Kuwait's delegation to the meeting is led by the country's Ambassador to Egypt and Permanent Delegate to the League, Ghanim Al-Ghanim. — KUNA



CAIRO: Arab League in session

## Kuwait's envoy to Australia presents credentials

KUWAIT: Ambassador Bassam Al-Qabandi submitted his credentials as Ambassador of Kuwait to the Director of the Protocol Department at the Australian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Evan McConnell. Ambassador Al-Qabandi said that both sides discussed ways to develop bilateral relations and various other topics of mutual interest.—KUNA



KUWAIT: Ambassador Bassam Al-Qabandi submits credentials to Evan McConnell. — KUNA

## Kuwait launches aid campaign for Pakistan

KUWAIT: Charities in Kuwait have launched a humanitarian initiative aimed at alleviating the consequences of the recent floods that have hit Pakistan.

Ibrahim Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Kuwait Society for Relief, said that it was the difficult conditions experienced by Pakistan over the floods and the massive displacement operations, which led to the launch of the humanitarian campaign.

"The coordinated efforts of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Community Development, together with the collaborative work from 27 Kuwaiti charitable societies, accelerated the pace of the initiative to provide for the needs of the affected people."

Al-Saleh added that the campaign is a continuation of Kuwait's global humanitarian role in providing relief to those impacted by disasters around the world.

Meanwhile, Hamad Al-Mashaan, Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation said that the launch of the campaign and the task of delivering aid to Pakistan was initiated by the Cabinet and assigned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He underscored that the Kuwaiti response to the crisis was a reflection of the close historical ties between Kuwait and Pakistan.

The campaign which will be held for a period of three days aims to provide medicine, food and shelter for thousands of affected people, as well as provide urgent relief in terms of medical equipment,



Musallam Al-Subaie



Ibrahim Al-Saleh

first aid, clothes, blankets, tents and other basic needs. The initiative which also allows electronic donations through K-Net, Visa or Mastercard encourages the contribution by people from outside Kuwait as well.

More than 6,300 nationals and residents contributed to the initiative within the first hour which amounted to about KD 148,000. Pakistan is witnessing one of its worst humanitarian disasters in recent years and requires urgent access to medical aid, food, water, shelter. According to official statistics, approximately 33 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance in affected areas in the country.

Meanwhile, Musallam Al-Subaie, Acting Undersecretary of the social affairs and development ministry, said during the anniversary of the International Day of Charity that "humanitarian work is an inseparable part of Kuwait's identity."

"The Ministry of Social Affairs encourages charitable work by volunteers and humanitarian organizations in the country to improve humanitarian work in the world and Kuwait has always been at the forefront to minimize the struggles of people in need."

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KUWAIT: Members of the humanitarian aid initiative. — KUNA photos



PAKISTAN: KRCS delivers aid to affected people. — KUNA

Local

# Kuwait Cabinet reviews mega projects' progress



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: During their weekly meeting at Al-Seif Palace and under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet reviewed the recommendations of the ministerial committee on mega development projects and the financial affairs.

The committee, chaired by Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior raised suggestions, to remove the obstacles facing the implementation of mega projects. The Cabinet members also reviewed the recommendations of the



KUWAIT: Cabinet session in progress. — KUNA photos



KUWAIT: Ministers during the Cabinet session.

committee on economic affairs, chaired by Al-Fares and looked at the proposals put forth by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs Abdul-Wahab Al-Rushaid, on putting a cap on spending in the upcoming three fiscal years. In the meeting, Al-Rushaid was asked to adopt adequate measures to limit spending and set the necessary guidelines and regulations for the government agencies to be in alignment with the state budget. The Minister was also tasked with the issuance of circulations regulating the budget appropriations in accordance to the provisions of Act 31 (1978) and the budgetary and auditing rules.

The Cabinet also discussed some suggestions pitched by a public services committee, comprising of various state bodies, planned initiatives aimed at enhancing Kuwait's food security and also referred the matter to the country's Government Performance Follow-Up Agency. The agency will also be tasked with compiling a special report on these initiatives, which includes forming designated storage facilities to boost food security - a comprehensive plan that requires further coordination among state organizations. Finance Minister Abdul-Wahab Al-Rushaid then briefed the Cabinet on the existential financial challenges facing Kuwait, all of which require reforms to usher in financial stability, he underlined, even as his ministry's efforts to address the matter were praised by the Cabinet. The talks then turned to current happenings around the world, mainly a recent spate of terrorist attacks in a number of countries, including a deadly attack targeting a food convoy in Somalia and a bomb blast that ripped through a mosque in western Afghanistan, both of which left scores of people dead or injured. The Cabinet strongly condemned these incidents, in addition to the recent assassination attempt on Argentina's Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, adding that Kuwait backed global efforts to root out terrorism. — KUNA

## Amir's envoy hands letter to Qatar Amir



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's envoy, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, on Monday handed a letter from HH the Deputy Amir

and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, including the regards and greetings of HH the Amir to Sheikh Tamim, wishing him a long healthy



life and more development for Qatar. The letter also dealt with bilateral ties and means of boosting cooperation on all levels, as well as the recent regional and international developments. — KUNA

## Kuwait hails OPEC+ decision to revert to output quotas

KUWAIT: Kuwait lauded a decision by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies to revert to regular production levels starting this October, after an output hike of 100,000 barrels per day for September.

"The decision was made based on a consensus among OPEC member states to ensure the security of supplies and maintain the balance of the global oil market," said Dr. Mohammad Al-Fares, Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil. He

added that Kuwait's output quota for September will be 2.811m bpd, which is in line with a "comprehensive vision based on an accurate understanding of the needs of oil markets and the volume of supplies." Al-Fares went on to underline Kuwait's backing of all OPEC efforts aiming to protect the "stability of the market from recent fluctuations," saying "he was confident in the organization's flexibility" to deal with various challenges, chiefly, restoring balance to the oil market. — KUNA



## MoI undersecretary inspects special forces

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior has announced that the undersecretary, Anwar Al-Barjas, has conducted a supervision of the work process in the special forces department. The inspection aims to make sure that all preparations are in place to provide security to the nation. Meanwhile, Al-Barjas has also sent his regards to the acting minister, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled after

his instructions were given, regarding the mission of the special forces. He also inspected the education and on field programs to check their effectiveness, in the event of any emergencies. Al-Barjas expressed his admiration for the team's insistence on work excellence, stressing that, continuous training is at the core of improving the capabilities of the special forces.



KUWAIT: Minister of Oil Dr. Mohammad Al-Fares with members of Kuwait's OPEC team. — KUNA



The image with the story titled 'Unofficial rental terms dictate market: Al-Ghanem' on Page 3 of Kuwait Times' Sept 5, 2022 edition was only used for illustrative purposes. We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

local spotlight

## Malicious exploitation



By Dr Khalid Ahmad Al-Saleh

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The consumer is the citizen and resident, and the harm they endure due to exploitation contradicts the country's values, the values that aim to provide security for all. Law 39 of 2014 was issued to protect the consumer. It called for forming a national committee for consumer protection. The committee has 12 members from various sectors, and aims to develop the principle of consumer protection in Kuwait. So I hope this important entity listens to consumers to resolve their most important hardships in this regard.

Most citizens and residents want to reactivate article 3 of the law which calls for study of suggestions and recommendations the committee receives with regards to consumer protection. I hope my suggestion reaches the esteemed committee members, as consumer exploitation has gone past the limits of commercial cheating and exaggerated prices. Yes, consumer exploitation went beyond the traditional pattern, and we are in need of expanding the principle of consumer protection.

Those who follow citizens' complaints find exploitation by handymen has become more harmful - more than commercial cheating and exaggerated prices. The consumer today suffers from the labor market in Kuwait, and their protection has become of extreme importance, and there should be moves towards it. The citizen is facing heinous exploitation from laborers who cheat, without having the necessary experience and knowledge of the job. In short, the marketplace in Kuwait today is the job of those who do not have one!

The solution will not be by punishing these workers, as they are many and have a thousand means to return to the market. The ideal solution is for the consumer protection committee to establish a small center in each area that has a lecture hall and a store for industrial equipment. The lectures hall should be for simple courses for citizens to repair electronics, plumbing, painting, carpentry, etc. As for the industrial equipment store, it should allow the citizen to rent what they need in equipment to use in their homes at nominal charges.

This suggestion is not a novelty, as it is practiced in most civilized countries, where a worker does not enter houses to replace a faucet or a power fuse. No, such handymen do not enter homes, who shortly before was a grocery store worker before deciding to become a craftsman. But here, we are a trial station for every failed laborer who uses us to learn and steal our money in exchange of damaging, not repairing.

Consumer protection must expand its duties and increase its authority, as the usual commercial exploitation can be handled by refraining from buying or using alternatives, but exploitation by handymen is dangerous, because it has to do with citizens' needs. Awareness, training and facilitating access to industrial tools is the ideal solution to fight exploitation by craftsmen.

## News in brief



KUWAIT: Dr. Khaled Al-Saeed at Farwaniya Hospital.

Health Minister visits  
Farwaniya Hospital

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr. Khaled Al-Saeed made a visit to Farwaniya Hospital accompanied by the Undersecretary Dr. Mustafa Redha, Director of Farwaniya Health Zone, Dr. Mohammad Al-Rashidi and Farwaniya Hospital Director Dr. Ali Al-Mutairi. On his visit, the minister discussed plans with the hospital administration, to move to the new hospital, with preparations already underway to move some departments and wards. Al-Saeed's visit also included a stop at the emergency and trauma department where he enquired about the waiting time for patients to receive service and was told that stable patients did not have to wait for more than 15 minutes. He also checked the mechanisms in place for providing prompt care for patients, whose lives are in danger and spoke with the hospital staff about the obstacles they faced and the means for overcoming them, as he commended their efforts as well as that of the hospital administration.

KAF open water  
competition kicks off

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Army club commenced its second open water competition, under the sponsorship of Lieutenant General Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah, Head of the Kuwait Armed Forces and the organization of the Athletic Military Union, conducted as part of the athletic summer activities of the military. Major General Fahad Al-Turajji, Head of the educational panel at the military, expressed his appreciation of the leadership for their support of all the military athletes. He also encouraged the participants to have a positive spirit, a healthy spirit of competition and sport good athletic morals in order to be a positive influence on their fellowmen at the Kuwait Armed Forces.

KFF launches drug  
awareness campaign

KUWAIT: Under the sponsorship of the head of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), Khaled Al-Makrad, the health department organized a lecture titled, 'The negative effects of drugs', conducted by the Head of the Rehab Center, Dr. Adel Al-Zaidin, West Mishref. The lecture, which was attended by a number of leaders in the KFF, aims to support those impacted by the negative effects of addiction, through a series of awareness campaigns and activities through the year. The use of media outlets such as social media sites, were highlighted to raise awareness about the dangers of drugs, especially after the Ministry of Justice announced, a 31 percent increase in drug related crimes in 2021, reaching a total of around 6,300 cases.

Prosecution transfers  
election accused

KUWAIT: The public prosecution has transferred 112 accused persons for conducting illegal elections to be tried in court on Sept 15. Sources revealed that there were six other persons accused of electoral fraud who are detained by the prosecution, while the rest have been released on bail. "The interior ministry has raided a Divaniya in Qairawan, which was hosting an illegal election related to the Bani Ghanim tribe and has confiscated an election box, election votes and participators and has sent them to the public prosecution, which has concluded its decision that the election was indeed illegal and is a crime punishable by law," the source added.

Ministry of Commerce  
confiscates fake goods

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Industry and Commerce fined a store in Salmiya, for selling counterfeit clothes carrying fake logos. The ministry also closed down two companies for facilitating the smuggling of subsidized products with the action taken in cooperation with the customs department. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce also closed down a store for the illegal sale of cosmetics and contact lenses. Investigators found and confiscated expired cosmetic products that did not have the country of origin, as labels were changed by the store to deceive consumers.

## Photo of the day



KUWAIT: Workers clean the windows of a high-rise building in Kuwait City. —Photo by Yasser Al Zayyat

CAN announces awareness  
campaign for breast cancer

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Dr. Khalid Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Executive Committee of Cancer Aware Nation (CAN), announced a month-long breast cancer awareness campaign in October to mark International Breast Cancer Awareness Day on Oct 21. Speaking on the prevalence of breast cancer in Kuwait, Saleh said the disease is more common among women in the country.

It is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women with an estimated 2.1 million new cases being diagnosed each year and representing 24.2 percent of all cancer diagnoses among women. Kuwait Cancer Control Center registered a total of 602 breast cancer cases in 2017 among - 37.1 percent among Kuwaiti women and 40.2 percent among non-Kuwaitis.

Dhaman joins  
UN Global  
Compact Initiative

KUWAIT: Health Assurance Hospitals Company (Dhaman) joins the United Nations Global Compact initiative - a voluntary leadership platform for the development, implementation and disclosure of responsible business practices that includes thousands of committed companies and organizations worldwide to adopting and implementing responsible business practices.

Dhaman CEO, Thamer Arab, said, "We are proud to join the United Nations initiative, which is in line with the company's values and principles, and to be among other regional and global companies that are committed in taking responsible actions that will reflect on them and on the world".

He said that Dhaman has always been a pioneer in the field of healthcare delivery, through the adoption and implementation of health maintenance model (HMO), as it believes in preserving the environment, promoting transparency, integrity and

equal opportunities. Arab also pointed out that "the health sector is one of the important sectors that has committed to the sustainable development goals of the United Nations, and is keen to provide healthcare to millions of people around the world. By joining the program, we affirm our support of human rights, which is included in our Code of Conduct, HR policy, and all existing company policies and regulations. We respect and value all our employees and treat them equally without any form of discrimination".

He added that one of the initiatives adopted by Dhaman is the preparation of a governance guide, "which is one of the main pillars in the implementation and practice of corporate governance principles within the company to enhance the confidence of investors and stakeholder."

Arab also said that in light of the accelerating digital transformation in the world after the pandemic, healthcare providers continue to develop the infrastructure to provide digital healthcare in response to the growing needs of patients and beneficiaries.

Dhaman has completed two hospitals in Ahmadi and Jahra governorates with a total capacity of 660 beds, in addition to four primary healthcare centers distributed in different governorates, which are cur-



Dr Khalid Al-Saleh



Dr Husna Al-Shaheen



Thamer Arab

rently operating as private centers. Through its health network, Arab added that "it also provides mandatory assurance and primary and secondary health services for workers in the private sector and their families, within the health maintenance (HMO) model, a unique model based on the concept of preventive health, introduced in the Middle East for the first time".

Launched in 2000, the UN Global Compact is the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world, with more than 9,500 companies and 3,000 non-business signatories based in over 160 countries, and more than 70 Local Networks. It aligns its operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and to take action in support of UN goals and issues embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Indian Embassy hosts  
familiarization visit  
for teachers, students

KUWAIT: The Embassy of India in Kuwait organized an 'Embassy Familiarization Visit' on the occasion of Teachers' Day this year. The initiative, which was aimed at making the students aware about the functioning of the Embassy saw the participation of more than 200 Indian students and school teachers.

During his opening remarks, Indian Ambassador Sibi George extended his greetings on Teachers' Day, which is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr S Radhakrishnan, former President of India. The Ambassador also welcomed the students and teachers to the embassy and expressed his happiness on the active participation by schools during the celebration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Kuwait and the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

Speaking to the students, Ambassador George said that the aim of the familiarization visit was to give the students a holistic picture of how the embassy functions and also to make the students stakeholders in promoting Indian culture and art in Kuwait.

In his speech made at the event, the Ambassador also made the students aware about the emergence of India as a major power, focusing on the current



KUWAIT: Ambassador George addressing the students during their visit.

efforts of the Prime Minister of India - to transform India into a self-reliant country. He also highlighted the scientific achievements that India has made in recent years, emphasizing on the country's efforts in trying to find solutions for the climate change challenges, such as the Indian initiative to establish International Solar Alliance (ISA) which have over hundred countries as its members.

Highlighting the role played by the India Embassy, Kuwait to conduct NEET, NATA and JEE examinations for the first time in the country which has helped hundreds of Indian students during the pandemic, he added that, "The Indian embassy is always a home away from home for all Indians in Kuwait including the students."

During the event, a video documentary was also shown, giving a virtual tour of the embassy and its operations along with glimpses of India's natural beau-



KUWAIT: Ambassador George giving out awards.

ty. A presentation was also given on the topic - 'Introduction to Civil Service' by the Second Secretary (Education), focusing on examination patterns, eligibility criteria and requirements to be a Civil Servant.



Two Russian embassy staff among six killed in Kabul

## Russia revokes print licence of top independent newspaper

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HAILUOGOU, China: Firefighters gather near a damaged wall of a fire station after a 6.6-magnitude earthquake in Hailuoguo in China's southwestern Sichuan province on September 5, 2022. —AFP

# Strong quake in southwest China kills 21

## Tremors shook buildings in provincial capital of Chengdu

**BEIJING, China:** At least 21 people were killed when a strong earthquake struck southwestern China on Monday, state media reported, as violent tremors in a remote region damaged homes and left some areas without electricity.

The magnitude 6.6 quake hit about 43 kilometres (26 miles) southeast of the city of Kangding in Sichuan province at a depth of 10 kilometres, according to the US Geological Survey. Fourteen people lost their lives in Sichuan's Shimian county and seven died in nearby Luding county, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Tremors shook buildings in the provincial capital of Chengdu—where millions are confined to their homes under a strict COVID lockdown—and in the nearby megacity of Chongqing, local residents told AFP. “I felt it quite strongly. Some of my neighbours on the ground floor said they felt it very noticeably,” said Chen, a resident of Chengdu. “But because Chengdu is currently under epidemic management, people aren't allowed to leave their residential compounds, so many of them rushed out into their

courtyards,” she added.

At least one town had suffered “severe damage” from mountain landslides triggered by the quake, CCTV reported. A road to another town was blocked and telecommunications lines in areas home



Millions confined to COVID lockdown

to more than 10,000 people were severed, the broadcaster said, adding that shocks also forced some power stations offline in the areas of Garze and Ya'an.

Footage broadcast by CCTV appeared to show

damaged buildings and a street strewn with fallen masonry in Garze. A video posted online by the China Earthquake Networks Center showed boulders thundering down mountainsides in Luding county, kicking up clouds of dust as tremors swayed roadside telephone wires.

State media reported that several aftershocks were recorded in nearby areas. A smaller magnitude 4.6 tremor hit eastern Tibet less than an hour after the initial quake, according to the USGS. Hundreds of rescue workers were dispatched to the epicentre, CCTV reported, alongside footage of firefighters in orange jumpsuits boarding trucks and navigating a highway littered with rocks and other debris.

Authorities also sent thousands of tents, blankets and foldable beds to the affected areas, according to the broadcaster. Other state media photos showed officials in military fatigues heaving shovels and other equipment along a highway—all while wearing face masks as a Covid precaution.

A resident of Chongqing said the quake was “pretty noticeable” and that it had shaken the lights

and furniture in his fifth-floor apartment. “I was pretty scared,” he told AFP, “but it didn't seem to faze people here.”

### Summer of extremes

Earthquakes are fairly common in China, especially in the country's seismically active southwest. A magnitude 8.0 quake in 2008 in Sichuan's Wenchuan county left tens of thousands dead and caused enormous damage. At least four people were killed and dozens more injured after two earthquakes in southwestern China in June. That month a shallow 6.1-magnitude shock hit a sparsely populated area about 100 kilometres west of Chengdu.

It was followed three minutes later by a second quake of magnitude 4.5 in a nearby county, where the deaths and injuries occurred. Authorities in Chengdu extended the city's lockdown on Sunday as they fight a COVID flare-up with hundreds of cases. The region has also suffered a summer of extreme weather, with a record-breaking heatwave noticeably drying rivers in Chongqing. — AFP

## Trial opens over 2016 Nice truck massacre

**PARIS:** Eight suspects go on trial Monday over the July 2016 attack in the Mediterranean city of Nice, where a radical Islamist killed 86 people by driving a truck into thousands of locals and tourists celebrating France's national day.

The attacker, a 31-year-old Tunisian named Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel, was shot dead by police following the more than four-minute rampage down the seaside embankment of the Promenade des Anglais.

The seven men and one woman who will go on trial in Paris are accused of crimes from being aware of his intentions to providing logistical support and supplying weapons. Only one suspect, Ramzi Kevin Arefa, faces the maximum penalty of life imprisonment if convicted as a recurring offender. The others risk between five and 20 years in prison.

The trial, which gets underway at 1:30 pm (11:30 GMT) and due to last until mid-December, is the latest legal process over the Islamist attacks that have hit France since 2015. A Paris court on June 29 convicted all 20 suspects in the trial over the November 2015 attacks in the French capital which left 130 dead.

The trial will take place within the historic Palais de Justice in Paris at the same purpose-built courthouse that hosted the November 2015 attacks hearings, and a special venue has been set up in Nice to allow victims to follow proceedings via a live broadcast.

### 'Frustration'

While Lahouaiej-Bouhlel cannot now be brought to justice, the trial—as in the November 2015 case—marks a hugely important moment for survivors and relatives of the victims as they seek to move on with their lives. The extremist Islamic State (IS) group rapidly claimed responsibility for the Nice attack, though French investigators ultimately did not find any links between the attacker and the jihadist organisation which at the time controlled swathes of Iraq and Syria.

Of the accused, three suspects are charged with



NICE, France: Members of the 'Association Montjoie Aide Aux Victimes' speak to a lawyer outside the trial broadcast room for civil parties and lawyers at the Acropolis Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nice, southeastern France, on September 5, 2022. — AFP

association in a terrorist conspiracy and the five others with association in a criminal conspiracy and violating arms laws. The attack, which saw 15 children and adolescents among the dead and 450 wounded, was the second most deadly postwar atrocity on French soil after the November 2015 Paris attacks.

Six years after the attack, “the fact that the sole perpetrator is not there will create frustration. There will be many questions that no one will be able to answer,” said Eric Morain, a lawyer for a victims' association that is taking part in the trial.

“We are trying to prepare them for the fact that the sentences may not be commensurate with their suffering,” said Antoine Casubolo-Ferro, another lawyer for the victims. In the November 2015 attacks trial, just one member of the assault team, Salah Abdeslam, was not killed during or in the wake of the strikes.

He discarded his suicide belt on the night of the attacks and claimed to have changed his mind about attacking. But he was sentenced to life in prison with only a tiny chance of parole after 30 years, the toughest possible punishment under French law.

French Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti commented: “I understand this frustration, it is human. But there will be a legal response. We respond to this barbarism through the law.” — AFP

## Germany, Zionist entity mark 50 years of Olympics massacre

**MUNICH:** Germany and Zionist's presidents will on Monday lead commemorations marking 50 years since the Munich Olympics attack, with hopes that a long-awaited compensation deal for bereaved families will finally help them begin healing from the painful episode. A row over the financial offer previously made by Berlin to victims' relatives had threatened to sour the ceremony, with family members planning a boycott.

But a deal was finally agreed last Wednesday for Berlin to provide 28 million euros (\$28 million) in compensation. It also — for the first time — saw the German state acknowledge its “responsibility” in failings that led to the deaths of 11 Zionists.

Germany's President Frank-Walter Steinmeier admitted Sunday it was “shameful” that it had taken such a long time for Berlin to reach the agreement with victims' families.

“For far too long, we have refused to acknowledge the pain of the bereaved,” said Steinmeier at a state banquet for his Zionist counterpart Isaac Herzog.

“And for far too long, we have not wanted to acknowledge that we also bear our share of responsibility. It was up to us to ensure the safety of the Zionist athletes,” he said, on the eve of the commemorations at Fuerstenfeldbruck airbase where the hostage-taking reached its tragic climax.

At a separate ceremony on Monday morning at the Olympic village where the Zionist team was staying, Munich mayor Dieter Reiter apologised for the “momentous mistakes” made by those responsible for the Games.

“I am sorry for that and I apologise for the fact that after the attack, what would have been demanded by humanity was simply not done — admitting the mistakes and taking responsibility for them.”

### 'No minimal effort'

On September 5, 1972, eight gunmen of the Palestinian militant group Black September stormed into the Zionist team's flat at the Olympic village,



ROSTOCK, Germany: Former handball player Klaus Langhoff, who witnessed the 1972 Munich Olympics hostage-taking, shows one of his pictures during an AFP interview in Rostock, north-eastern Germany. — AFP

shooting dead two and taking nine Zionist hostage.

West German police responded with a bungled rescue operation in which all nine hostages were killed, along with five of the eight hostage-takers and a police officer.

The Games were meant to showcase a new Germany 27 years after the Holocaust but instead opened a deep rift with Zionist entity.

In 2012, Zionist entity released 45 official documents on the killings, including specially declassified material, which lambasted the performance of the German security services.

Included in the reports is an official account from the former Zionist intelligence head Zvi Zamir who said the German police “didn't make even a minimal effort to save human lives”.

Bereaved relatives have over the years battled to obtain an official apology from Germany, access to official documents and appropriate compensation beyond an initial 4.5 million euros.

As recently as just two weeks ago, relatives of the victims said they were offered 10 million euros — including the sum that had already been given.

Ankie Spitzer, whose husband Andre Spitzer was killed in the hostage-taking, had called the previous offer “insulting”. “I came home with the coffins after the massacre,” she told AFP. “You don't know what we've gone through for the past 50 years.” — AFP

## International

# 'We obey': Iraq's Moqtada Sadr loyalists express diehard support

## 'For every martyr we lose, there are 10 that will come in his place'

**NAJAF:** In a sun-baked cemetery in the central Iraqi city of Najaf, fresh are the graves of loyalists to Shiite leader Moqtada Sadr who were killed in clashes in Baghdad last week. So too is seething anger following the face-off between the cleric's supporters, rival Iran-backed factions and the army that left more than 30 Sadrists dead and 570 others wounded.

Standing between tombstones, Moussa Abbas said the fight was far from over. "Blood was spilt, but there is plenty more where that came from," the 21-year-old Sadr loyalist told AFP. "For every martyr we lose, there are 10 that will come in his place. The same way they sacrificed themselves for us, we will stand up for them."

Nearly 24 hours of fighting erupted on August 29 when Sadr supporters stormed the government headquarters in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone after their leader said he would resign from politics.

The ensuing battles—the deadliest in nearly three years—followed months of disagreements between Sadr and rival Shiite factions, as the political deadlock has left the country without a new government, prime minister or president since elections in October last year.

After last week's unrest brought tensions to a boil, Sadr supporters said they were willing to give

their lives for their leader.

"I am ready to be the first of the martyrs," said Taleb Saad, 60, who said he had been caught up in the violence. "My wish is to be buried here," he said, pointing at graves adorned with plastic flowers and large portraits of young men.

### 'Under his command'

Sadr gained widespread popularity following the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, when he ran the feared Mahdi Army militia that fought against American and Iraqi government forces. He has now reinvented himself as a champion of reform in a country blighted by endemic corruption—though opponents accuse Sadrists of being as unscrupulous as other political forces.

Sadr's rise was aided by the reputation of his father, Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Sadeq Sadr, whom former dictator Saddam Hussein had assassinated in 1999.

The grey-bearded cleric retains a devoted following of millions among the country's majority Shiite population. As fighting raged in the Green Zone, all it took was one stern statement from Sadr for his loyalists to begin streaming out of the area.

In the Najaf cemetery—established in 2004 to bury Mahdi Army fighters—grief did not douse their support. "We obey the orders of our leader and

"I am ready to be the first of the martyrs"



NAJAF, Iraq: Iraqi mourners visit the grave sites of loved ones at the Najaf cemetery, established in 2004 to bury Mahdi Army fighters, in the central Iraqi city of Najaf. —AFP

commander—whatever he wants, we are ready," said Sadeq Jaber, mourning a 16-year-old from his tribe who was shot dead last week. The boy's given name was Moqtada Sadr.

"All of us, with our children, houses and families—we are all under his command," Jaber said. Nearby, women clad in black wailed at graves so recent they

bore temporary paper tombstones, as cemetery workers made space for corpses arriving almost daily from Baghdad's hospitals. Jaber, who drove two hours from the capital to pay his respects, said the cemetery would keep growing. "There will continue to be martyrs as long as this ruling class is in power," he said. —AFP

## Police in Argentina arrest companion of Kirchner attacker

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina:** Argentine police arrested on Sunday a companion of the man who attempted to shoot Vice President Cristina Kirchner after the politician's lawyers said the assailant "didn't act alone," local media reported.

Scandal-tainted Kirchner, 69, survived the assassination attempt as she mingled with supporters outside her home on Thursday night, when a gun brandished by Fernando Andre Sabag Montiel failed to fire. Video footage showed Brenda Uliarte, 23, in the company of attacker Sabag Montiel on the day of the attack, local media said, citing sources close to the investigation.

Kirchner enjoys a loyal support base among followers of the center-left Peronism movement inherited from former president Juan Peron, but is disliked in equal measure by the political opposition. Tens of thousands of Argentines took to the streets to denounce political violence after the shooting attempt.

Uliarte was arrested under a warrant issued by the magistrate in charge of the investigation, according to judicial sources cited by local media, including the official Telam news agency. She had said in an interview with local television channel Telefe that she had been living with Sabag Montiel for more than a month but had not seen him in the 48 hours before the incident.

She also expressed shock that her friend had attempted to kill the vice president. "To tell the truth, I don't remember any mention of the vice president. He was complaining about the dollar and the economy, like everyone else," she told Telefe.

Sabag Montiel, 35, a Brazilian national who has been living in Argentina since his youth, has not told investigators what his motivations were. "He didn't act alone because there were preparatory actions to the assassination attempt," Kirchner's lawyer Gregorio Dalbon told C5N television station, without offering further details. "There were, without a doubt, other people who were aware of this situation."

### Intended to kill

Kirchner, who is currently on trial for corruption and accused of accepting bribes in her Patagonian stronghold, was greeting supporters outside her Buenos Aires home when Sabag Montiel pointed a gun at her head from within the crowd.

For reasons as yet unknown, the weapon did not go off despite being fired. President Alberto Fernandez said shortly after the incident, which led to messages of support from the Pope, the UN, United States and Latin American leaders.

The attacker was arrested on the spot and the entire incident caught on camera. Kirchner's lawyer has said he would also like investigators to interview a man named "Mario", who has identified himself as the attacker's friend. Shortly after the attack, Mario had told a television channel that he had been friends with Sabag Montiel since they were teenagers and that he was "sure that his intention was to kill" Kirchner. —AFP

## Truss named as UK's new...

Continued from Page 1

values of low taxes and personal responsibility. Truss vowed a "bold plan" to address tax cuts and the energy crisis, which she has indicated will be financed by much higher borrowing - even at the risk of stoking double-digit inflation.

Truss, 47, will be the UK's third woman to become prime minister following Theresa May and Margaret Thatcher. She will formally take office on Tuesday, after Johnson tenders his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II. "I know she has the right plan to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, unite our party and continue the great work of uniting and levelling up our country," Johnson tweeted. "Now is the time for all Conservatives to get behind her 100 percent."

The leadership contest began in July after Johnson announced his departure following a slew of scandals and resignations from his government, including Sunak's. Truss reserved a portion of her short speech to praising Johnson's record, including on Brexit and the Covid pandemic, and said he was "admired from Kyiv to Carlisle".

That won applause from the Tory faithful present. The rightwing ideologue, however, faces a

tough task in winning over public opinion. A YouGov poll in late August found 52 percent thought Truss would make a "poor" or "terrible" prime minister. Forty-three percent said they did not trust her "at all" to deal with the crisis in the cost of living, as energy prices rocket amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

Truss is also viewed with mistrust among some of Britain's allies, after taking a hard line against the European Union over post-Brexit trading rules for Northern Ireland. "I look forward to a constructive relationship, in full respect of our agreements," European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said, flagging climate change and Ukraine as areas for cooperation. Ireland's government also gave Truss a wary welcome, but the scale of the challenges ahead saw the Smarkets betting exchange give her a 25 percent chance of failing to last through 2023. The Tory winner faces "the worst in-tray for a new prime minister since Thatcher". The Sunday Times wrote. Millions say that with energy bills set to rise by 80 percent from October - and even higher from January—they face a painful choice between eating and heating this winter, according to surveys. Polls show public support for an early general election, and the Conservatives face a growing challenge to retain their grip on power with the opposition Labour party riding high. Labour leader Keir Starmer sent his own congratulations to Truss. "But after 12 years of the Tories all we have to show for it is low wages, high prices, and a Tory cost-of-living crisis," he tweeted. —AFP

stability whether that means deterring Iran, (or) countering violent extremist organizations".

In the fourth exercise of its kind this year, the planes started at the Fairford air base in England and flew above the eastern Mediterranean, Arabian Peninsula and Red Sea "before departing the region", the statement said. US ground and naval units as well as 16 other nations, including Canada, provided logistical support, the US military said. The US army "simulated firepower from the ground". Central Command chief, General Michael 'Erik' Kurilla, said: "We have the ability to put a significant measure of combat power in the air alongside our partners very quickly. We can do the same on the ground and at sea." —AFP

## Russia revokes print licence of top independent newspaper

**MOSCOW:** A Russian court on Monday stripped investigative newspaper Novaya Gazeta, whose chief editor last year was co-awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, of its print licence, in the latest blow to the country's independent media.

The announcement came as another Moscow court is expected to issue a verdict in the case of former defence reporter Ivan Safronov, who faces up 24 years in jail on controversial treason charges. Russian independent media have in recent years faced unprecedented pressure, with authorities further tightening the screws since the start of Moscow's February offensive in Ukraine.

All main independent media outlets have been shut down in Russia or suspended their domestic operations after a series of media restrictions were imposed on coverage of the Ukraine conflict. "The Basmanny court of Moscow invalidated the registration certificate of the print version of Novaya Gazeta," the outlet, which suspended publication in late March, said on social media. UN Human Rights Office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said the decision was "another blow to the independence of Russian media". In a statement, the court confirmed the verdict which followed legal proceedings initiated by Russia's media watchdog Roskomnadzor.

The media regulator is also seeking to shut down Novaya Gazeta's website and a print magazine it



MOSCOW: File photo shows Novaya Gazeta editor Dmitry Muratov at the entrance to the office of the Novaya Gazeta newspaper in Moscow. —AFP

## Suspects on the run after Canada...

Continued from Page 1

Some of the devastation was described in local reports and social media posts. Weldon resident Diane Shier told the daily Saskatoon Star Phoenix her neighbor, a man who lived with his adult grandson, was killed in the attack. The grandson reportedly hid in the basement and called police. "It was about 7:30 am. My husband was in the garden. He saw police cars and an ambulance come to town. It's a little town. This is terrible, terrible. We've still got our doors locked, staying inside, not going out," she told the newspaper.

Fellow town resident Ruby Works said the killings would haunt the town. "No one in this town is ever going to sleep again. They're going to be

## Zionist entity admits soldier...

Continued from Page 1

it was impossible to determine the source of the deadly shot that killed the celebrated Al Jazeera journalist in the occupied West Bank, saying it could have been militant fire. "Our conclusion is that it's not possible to determine unequivocally which gunfire killed her, but there's a higher probability that she was hit by an errant shot of an IDF soldier who did not identify her as a journalist," a senior Zionist military officer said.

Abu Akleh was wearing a bulletproof vest marked "Press" and a helmet when she was shot in the head during the Zionist army operation on May 11. The Abu Akleh family on Monday said the Zionist entity had "refused to take responsibility for the murder" of the journalist, in a press release issued in the wake of the Zionist army's investigation report. "We remain deeply hurt, frustrated and disappoint-

terrified to open their door," Works said. Another resident, Robert Rush, said he had left his granddaughter at home to go buy a birthday cake for his wife. "I gave her two guns and a bat," he said. Police have released few details of the crimes, except for descriptions of the alleged attackers they say fled in a vehicle. They have been identified as Myles and Damien Sanderson, aged 30 and 31 respectively, both with black hair and brown eyes.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore told a news conference on Sunday that authorities believe "some of the victims were targeted by the suspects and others were attacked randomly". "To speak to a motive would be extremely difficult at this point in time," she added. No information has been released about the victims. Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Chief Bobby Cameron lamented "the unspeakable violence that claimed the lives of innocent people". In a statement, he blamed "harmful illegal drugs (that) invaded our communities" for the destruction. —AFP

ed," the family said, calling for a "credible" US investigation.

The Palestinian Authority accused the Zionist entity of intentionally killing the reporter in the Jenin refugee camp, in the northern West Bank, whereas the Zionist entity has insisted that even if a soldier fired the fatal shot it was not deliberate. On Monday, the senior army officer told reporters that the Zionist soldiers were under heavy fire and aimed to hit Abu Akleh because they had mistaken her for a Palestinian militant.

"When they fired in her direction they didn't know she was a journalist, it was a mistake, they thought they were firing at terrorists shooting at them," the officer said. "He's sorry about it and I'm sorry about it too," the officer said of the soldier who shot in the direction of Abu Akleh. "He didn't do it on purpose, it's totally clear," he added.

A United Nations investigation concluded in June that there was "no evidence of activity by armed Palestinians close by" when Abu Akleh was shot. The United States on July 4 said she was likely shot by Zionist fire but that there was no evidence her killing was intentional and that the bullet was too damaged for a conclusive finding. —AFP

## US sims strike mission over...

Continued from Page 1

European-brokered talks on restoring the 2015 accord - abandoned by the US in 2018 - have been ongoing in Vienna since April last year, but have repeatedly stalled. The European Union has said that a text put to Iran last month was the final one. The US air force has recently hit Iranian-backed militia in Syria while Grynkevich said last month that the United States was "committed to regional

## International

# Kenya Supreme Court upholds Ruto's presidential vote win

## Odinga respects ruling but disagrees with its substance

**NAIROBI:** Kenya's Supreme Court on Monday upheld William Ruto's victory in the August 9 presidential election, ending weeks of political uncertainty and delivering a blow to challenger Raila Odinga who had alleged fraud in the poll.

"This is a unanimous decision. The petitions are hereby dismissed, as a consequence we declare the first respondent (Ruto) as president-elect," Chief Justice Martha Koome said. Deputy President Ruto, 55, scraped to victory by a margin of less than two percentage points in a tightly-fought race against Odinga, a veteran opposition politician now backed by the ruling party.

As Ruto supporters celebrated, Odinga—who had filed a petition to Kenya's top court last month—said he respected the ruling but disagreed with its substance. "We have always stood for the rule of law and the constitution. In this regard, we respect the opinion of the court although we vehemently disagree with their decision today," he said in a statement.

Although voting day passed off peacefully, the results had sparked angry protests in Odinga strongholds, prompting fears that the disputed outcome could fuel violence in a country with a history of post-poll unrest.

Judges spent the last two weeks sifting through boxes of evidence to establish if any irregularities were substantial enough to nullify the election, as was the case with the August 2017 presidential poll, which Odinga also challenged. Koome methodically listed the court's response to the nine issues at the heart of the case.

She said the technology used by the Independent and Electoral Boundaries Commission (IEBC) met the standards of "integrity, verifiability, security and

transparency". Any "irregularities were not of such magnitude as to affect the final results of the presidential election", she said, dismissing all the claims made by the petitioners. Odinga's 72-page petition alleged hackers broke into IEBC servers and uploaded doctored result forms, but the claim was dismissed by the court.

### 'We just want jobs'

In several towns in Kenya, the verdict sparked celebrations among Ruto supporters, who cheered and banged plastic buckets in jubilation. Elsewhere in Nairobi, stony-faced Odinga supporters expressed their disappointment, with a group of women telling AFP: "Not all of us are happy."

But with the economy in the doldrums, many Kenyans said they were relieved to see an end to the political drama so business could pick up again. "This announcement enables us to move on (with our lives)", said Caroline, a 30-year-old flower seller in the capital.

"We just want jobs," she told AFP. Ben Hunter, Africa analyst at risk intelligence group Verisk Maplecroft,

said in a note that "any protests by Odinga's followers... will not translate into prolonged unrest, despite international concerns of widespread violence".

"The unanimity of the legal ruling and the ongoing economic crisis will dampen the appetite for conflict," he added. In Odinga's stronghold of Kisumu, where protests broke out last month following the results' announcement, messages calling for peace were plastered on walls and pinned to poles as police patrolled the streets.

"We don't want trouble because we have realised we are the ones who suffer," said Nelima Atieno, a seller of second-hand clothes. Minibus driver Kevin



**NAIROBI:** Legal team of Kenyan President elect William Ruto celebrates at the court in Nairobi on September 5, 2022, following Kenya's Supreme Court upholding of Ruto's victory in the August 9 presidential election. —AFP

Omolo echoed her views, telling AFP: "We don't want people to demonstrate." "We can't change the verdict even though it is painful."

### Voter disillusionment

After 2017's annulment, the IEBC was under heavy pressure to deliver a clean poll. But this year's outcome sparked a rift within the IEBC itself, with four of its seven commissioners accusing chairman Wafala Chebukati of running an "opaque" process.

Chebukati denied the allegations, insisting he car-

ried out his duties according to the law of the land despite facing "intimidation and harassment". Since 2002, no presidential poll outcome in Kenya has gone uncontested.

At around 65 percent, turnout was sharply lower than in the August 2017 election, with observers saying it reflected growing disillusionment among citizens. Odinga, who previously said he was cheated of victory in the 2007, 2013 and 2017 polls, had framed the legal battle as a fight "for democracy and good governance". —AFP

## Russian embassy staff among six killed in Kabul

**KABUL:** A suicide bomber struck Monday near the Russian embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul, killing two staff from the diplomatic mission and four others. In the first attack targeting a foreign mission since the Taliban seized power in August last year, the bomber struck near the entrance of the embassy's consular section.

"Without any doubt, we are talking about a terrorist act, which is absolutely unacceptable," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists in Moscow. Afghanistan's foreign ministry confirmed the deaths of two embassy staff.

Four Afghans waiting for consular services were also killed and several more wounded, Kabul police said. Violence in Afghanistan has largely declined since the Taliban returned to power, but several bomb blasts — some targeting minority communities — have rocked the country in recent months, many claimed by the jihadist Islamic State (IS) group. As with other recent attacks, heavy Taliban security quickly sealed off the area and prevented media from filming nearby.

No group has so far claimed the

attack on the diplomatic mission. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said immediate steps were taken to boost security at the embassy, located on one of Kabul's main roads and leading to the parliament building.

### Intelligence 'weakness'

The attack is sure to embarrass the Taliban leadership, which for months has encouraged foreign nations to reopen their Kabul missions, insisting security was guaranteed.

During the chaotic takeover of the country by the Taliban last year, the Russian embassy was one of the few to remain open as most nations shut down and evacuated staff.

The Afghan foreign ministry said an investigation had been launched and authorities "will not allow the enemies to sabotage relations between both countries with such negative actions".

Afghan security analyst Hekmatullah Hekmat said the attack showed the government's "weakness" in gathering intelligence. "If they can't prevent such attacks in the heart of Kabul, then they can't provide security in the countryside," he told AFP.

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan condemned the bombing.

"UNAMA stresses the need for the de facto authorities to take steps to ensure the safety and security of the people as well as diplomatic missions," it tweeted.

On Friday, a suicide bomber struck

failed rainy season in the offing.

Griffiths said the situation was worse in Somalia than during the last famine in 2011 when 260,000 people, more than half of them children under the age of six. The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) last month said the number of people at risk of starvation across the Horn had increased to 22 million. In Somalia alone, the number of people facing crisis hunger levels is 7.8 million, or about half the population, while around a million have fled their homes on a desperate quest for food and water, UN agencies say.

Griffiths described scenes of heart-rending suffering during a visit to Baidoa, describing it as the epicentre of the crisis where he saw "children so malnourished they could barely speak" or cry.

### 'Beyond breaking point'

Conflict-wracked Somalia is considered one of the most vulnerable to climate change but is particularly ill-equipped to cope with the crisis. A deadly insurgency by the radical Islamist Al-Shabaab group for more than a decade and a half against the fragile federal government is limiting humanitarian access to many areas.

A long-running political crisis also diverted attention away from the drought, but new President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud used his inauguration speech in June to appeal for international help to stave off disaster.

In recent years, increasingly extreme droughts and floods have added to the devastation caused by a locust invasion and the COVID-19 pandemic. "Somalia is facing unprecedented levels of drought which have particularly hit rural communities, alongside other impacts like conflict, COVID-19, macroeconomic challenges,



**KABUL:** Taliban fighters (C) stand guard along a road near the Russian embassy after a suicide attack in Kabul on September 5, 2022. —AFP

one of western Afghanistan's biggest mosques, killing at least 18 people, including its influential pro-Taliban imam. The cleric, Mujib ur Rahman Ansari, who had called for those who committed even the "smallest act" against the government to be beheaded, was killed in that attack in the city of Herat.

The attack against Ansari came despite authorities providing him with heavy security, including a bulletproof vehicle and bodyguards.

Several mosques across the country have been targeted this year, some in

attacks claimed by IS.

At least 21 people were killed and dozens more wounded on August 17 when a blast ripped through a mosque packed with worshippers in Kabul.

IS has primarily targeted minority communities such as Shiites, Sufis and Sikhs.

While IS is a Sunni Islamist group like the Taliban, the two are bitter rivals and greatly diverge on ideological grounds.

Taliban officials claim that IS has been defeated but experts say the group is the main security challenge for the country's current Islamist rulers. —AFP



**BAIDOA, Somalia:** File photo shows Hawa Mohamed Isack (R), 60, drinks water at a water distribution point at Muuri camp, one of the 500 camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in town, in Baidoa, Somalia. UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths warned on September 5, 2022 that Somalia was "at the door of famine" after being hit by four failed rainy seasons. —AFP

and a recent desert locust upsurge," the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said in a statement on Friday.

It said people's means to produce food and earn income were "stretched beyond breaking point". The UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has said the Horn was likely facing a fifth straight failed rainy season over the months of October to December.

### 'Sleepwalking' to catastrophe

At the start of this year, the WFP had put the number of people facing hunger across the Horn at 13 million, and appealed for donors to open their wallets. Funds were initially slow in coming, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine among other crises drawing attention from the disaster in the

Horn, humanitarian workers said.

The war in Ukraine has also sent global food and fuel prices soaring, making aid delivery more expensive. In June, British charity Save the Children had issued an alert that the international community was "sleepwalking towards another catastrophic famine" in Somalia.

OCHA has said the March-May 2022 rainy season was the driest in record in the last 70 years, and 2020-2022 had surpassed "the horrific droughts in both 2010-2011 and 2016-2017 in duration and severity". "An estimated 2.3 million girls and boys are at imminent risk of violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect, and death from severe acute malnutrition as result of food and nutrition crisis across Somalia," it said in August. —AFP

## Engineers breach Pakistan lake as flood misery grows

**FAZILPUR, Pakistan:** Engineers breached Pakistan's biggest freshwater lake to drain water threatening nearby towns, officials said Monday, as heavy rain poured misery on millions affected by the country's worst floods in history. Nearly a third of Pakistan is under water—an area the size of the United Kingdom—following months of record monsoon rains that have killed 1,300 people and washed away homes, businesses, roads and bridges.

Officials say the repair bill will top \$10 billion for a country already in the grip of economic crisis, with hundreds of thousands homeless as the monsoon draws to an end and winter approaches. "There is nowhere to shower or go to the bathroom," said Zebunnisa Bibi, sheltering near Fazilpur, in Punjab province, where 65 tents are now home to more than 500 people who fled their inundated villages for higher land.

Similar tent camps have mushroomed across much of the south and west of Pakistan, where rain has nowhere to drain because rivers are already in full flow as a result of torrential downpours in the north.

Sindh province Information minister Sharjeel Inam Memon told AFP Monday that engineers had to cut a channel into Lake Manchar to drain water that was threatening the towns of Sehwan and Bhan Saeedabad, with a combined population of nearly half a million.

### Lake Manchar bigger than ever

Still, thousands had to be evacuated from smaller settlements submerged by the newly directed channel. "The flood water was diverted but the threat is still far from over," Memon said. "We are trying our best to stop the inundation of more villages."

Lake Manchar, which lies west of the Indus River, varies in size according to the season and rainfall, but is currently spread over as wide an area as anyone can recall. Much of Sindh and parts of Balochistan have become a vast landscape of water, with displaced locals huddled miserably on elevated roads, rail tracks and other high ground. Human and animal waste in the fetid water attracts swarms of flies, while outbreaks of dengue are being reported from mosquitoes breeding in the swamps. One pregnant woman at a camp in Punjab said she was desperate for medical attention for a baby due any day now. The mother-of-five knows it could be a difficult birth, as the baby has not shifted from the breech position. "I need a doctor or a midwife. What if something happens to my child?" said Fahmidah Bibi. The United Nations Population Fund said at the weekend there were at least 128,000 pregnant women in flood-hit areas who urgently need care—with 42,000 expected to give birth in the next three months.

### Climate change blamed

Pakistan receives heavy—often destructive—rains during its annual monsoon season, which are crucial for agriculture and water supplies. But such intense downpours have not been seen for decades. Pakistani officials blame climate change, which is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather around the world. Pakistan is responsible for less than one percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, but is eighth on a list compiled by the NGO Germanwatch of countries deemed most vulnerable to extreme weather caused by climate change.

A massive army-led relief operation is in full swing, but the country's leaders have admitted being overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis and appealed for international help. The latest figures from the National Disaster Management Authority show nearly 6,000 kilometres (4,000 miles) of roads have been washed away, 246 bridges demolished, and 1.6 million homes either destroyed or badly damaged since June, when the monsoon started. —AFP

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

# Business

## New UK PM Truss inherits an economy headed for recession

### Britons tighten their belts in response to double-digit inflation, soaring energy costs

**LONDON:** The UK's new Prime Minister Liz Truss takes power following a "summer of discontent" and as Britons tighten their belts in response to double-digit inflation and soaring energy costs. Liz Truss inherits an economy set to enter recession before the end of the year, with double-digit inflation forecast to soar further.

"We have a historically huge shock to the cost of living and incomes," said James Smith, research director of the Resolution Foundation think-tank. "The next prime minister will have to focus on the current crisis from day one."

Workers from refuse collectors to lawyers have for several months been joining picket lines to push for higher pay. The strikes have won widespread support but at the same time infuriated some people caught up in train cancellations, overflowing bins and empty shelves.

The industrial unrest comes as drought in England and Wales, exacerbated by climate change, has parched crops, sparked wildfires and caused trees to shed leaves early. But many households are already shivering in anticipation of a winter of massively hiked energy prices.

"It's summertime in the UK but the living is anything but easy," quipped the Financial Times. "Almost nothing seems to be working in Britain," wrote The Economist magazine, adding: "It could get worse".

#### Inflation impact

The Office for National Statistics this month said its consumer price index had risen 10.1 percent in the year since July 2021, the highest jump in 40 years. The cost of food and non-alcoholic drinks has risen most sharply, with the biggest price hikes basic foods such as milk, cheese and yoghurts.

This comes as inflation has created the steepest fall in real-term wages in two decades, hitting those on lower incomes the worst. "These price rises have

made the country worse off and many or all of us will ultimately lose out as a result," said the respected Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) think-tank.

In a sign of growing poverty, the number of children eligible for free school meals is up almost 1.9 million since 2021.

#### 'Real hardship'

Meanwhile, the UK energy regulator is shortly to allow suppliers to charge consumers vastly more, to reflect high global wholesale prices. The UK has some of the least energy efficient and oldest homes in Europe and a slow rollout of green technology such as heat pumps.

High bills will hit people across society but particularly those on low incomes with high energy needs, said Smith of the Resolution foundation, citing large families and people with disabilities. "I think we are going to see real hardship and even destitution," he warned. The poorest in Britain often use pre-payment meters, meaning they cannot spread energy costs across the year.

The Resolution Foundation has proposed a 30-percent discounted "social tariff" for low- to middle-income households. While Europe is also experiencing a big energy shock and the US is seeing its economy overheat and high inflation, "in a way we've got the worst of both worlds", said Smith.

The University of York has estimated that two-thirds of UK households will be in "fuel poverty" by January—paying over 10 percent of net income on energy. Experts warn of severe consequences. "In a matter of weeks, many more parents are going to be facing impossible choices between eating or heating."

"Yet we still do not yet have a plan from the UK government that recognizes the urgency or scale of this energy price crisis," said Dan Paskins, director of UK Impact at Save the Children.

The group also left the door open to holding talks prior to its next scheduled meeting on October 5 "to address market developments, if necessary". "First and foremost it is a clear message from the group: OPEC+ will not allow the oil price to slide. Further cuts will be initiated if necessary," Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodities analyst at SEB research group, told AFP.

While analysts said the cut was mostly symbolic, oil prices rose by more than three percent following the announcement, with the international benchmark, Brent, exceeding \$96 per barrel while the US contract, WTI, reached almost \$90. At its last meeting, OPEC+ agreed to a small rise of 100,000 barrels per day for September after US President Joe Biden travelled to Saudi Arabia to plead for a production bump - although it was six times lower than its previous decisions.

Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman last month had appeared to open the door to the idea of cutting output, which has since received the support of several member states and the cartel's joint technical committee. He said "volatility and thin liquidity send erroneous signals to markets at times when clarity is most needed".

Craig Erlam, analyst at OANDA trading platform, said the cut was "also a blow to President Biden as the hike last month was viewed as a token gesture after his visit". "Now it's clear how valuable that



**LONDON:** New Conservative Party leader and Britain's Prime Minister-elect Liz Truss (left) reacts next to her husband Hugh O'Leary as she hears the announcement of the winner of the Conservative Party leadership contest in central London on September 5, 2022. — AFP

#### Industrial action

In a "hot strike summer", numerous sectors are demanding pay rises equal to inflation—rail and bus workers, dockers, postal workers and even criminal lawyers. In Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, council workers who remove rubbish timed a stinking strike to coincide with the city's globally famous arts festival. Dockers have walked out at the major container port of Felixstowe, in eastern England, in a move set to hit supply chains.

The rise in strikes has prompted right-wing media to draw parallels with the 1970s, when

nationwide strikes were widespread. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research think-tank stressed, however, that "the strikers in 2022 ... are operating from a position of weakness".

Only about 23 percent of the workforce is now represented by unions, it said. Due to Brexit, COVID and other factors, the labor market is tight, with fewer workers than jobs.

This has hit sectors such as airports, which let specialized staff go during the COVID, resulting in long queues for holidaymakers and flights scrapped from schedules. — AFP

## OPEC+ agrees oil output cut to prop prices

**VIENNA:** The OPEC+ oil cartel agreed Monday to cut production for the first time in more than a year as it seeks to lift prices that have tumbled due to recession fears. The move could irk the United States as it has pressed the group to increase output in order to bring down energy prices that have fueled decades-high inflation. OPEC+, a 23-nation coalition led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, had agreed to huge cuts in output in 2020 when the Covid pandemic sent oil prices crashing, but it began to increase production modestly again last year as the market improved.

Oil prices soared to almost \$140 a barrel in March after Russia invaded Ukraine. But they have since receded below \$100 per barrel amid recession fears, COVID lockdowns in major consumer China and Iran nuclear talks that could bring Iranian crude back into the market. While analysts had expected another modest increase at Monday's ministerial meeting, OPEC+ said in a statement that it decided to reduce output by 100,000 barrels per day in October, returning to the production level of August.

## Turkey's inflation stays at 80% in boost to Erdogan

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey's official inflation rate barely changed on Monday in a sign that a year-long crisis that has seen prices soar by 80 percent may finally be starting to ease.

The TUIK state statistics agency said that consumer prices rose by 80.2 percent in August from a year earlier. The figure was fractionally higher than the 79.6 percent reported in July and only a small bump up from the 78.6 percent reading in June. Turkey's prices have been steadily rising since a low of 16.6 percent in May 2021.

The strategically important developing nation lurched into its latest economic crisis when President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched an unorthodox experiment that attempted to fight inflation by lowering the main interest rate. Conventional economic theory embraced by almost every other big nation pursues the exact opposite approach.

But Erdogan argues that higher interest rates contribute to price increases by making borrowing more expensive for businesses. The president also says that charging interest violates Islamic rules against usury. The central bank said over the weekend it expects the inflation rate to fall to 65 percent by the end of the year.

Erdogan himself says prices will only start falling



**ISTANBUL:** Turkey's official inflation rate barely changed on Monday in a sign that a year-long crisis that has seen prices soar by 80 percent may finally be starting to ease.

in January. The crisis has seen the ruling party's approval ratings drop to historic lows heading into the next general election due by June 2023.

#### 'Wishful thinking'

The increases were led by a 117-percent jump in the cost of transportation and a rise of more than 90 percent in the price of food and household goods. Erdogan's government attributes inflation to outside factors such as the global spike in food and energy prices caused by

actually was, or wasn't as it turns out. The political damage it caused was a waste and if anything, it looks worse than if nothing had changed in the first place," Erlam said.

Caroline Bain, commodities expert at Capital Economics, said the cut was not a total surprise and "little more than symbolic" as OPEC+ has struggled to meet its quotas due to lackluster production in some of its member countries. "The bigger picture is that OPEC+ is producing well below its output target and this looks unlikely to change given that Angola and Nigeria, in particular, appear unable to return to pre-pandemic levels of production," Bain said.

In efforts to curb rising oil prices, the United States and its allies have released crude from their emergency reserves. And in a bid to curb Russia's war funding, the G7 group of industrialized powers agreed Friday to move "urgently" towards capping the price of Russian oil. Moscow has warned that it will no longer sell oil to countries that adopt the unprecedented mechanism.

Another geopolitical issue is clouding the outlook. Negotiations aimed at reviving a landmark nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers could lead to an easing of oil sanctions in return for curbs to the atomic activities. However, Washington said Thursday that Tehran's latest response to a European Union draft was "unfortunately... not constructive". — AFP

## ECB poised for big rate hike in face of record inflation

**FRANKFURT:** After raising interest rates for the first time in over a decade at their last meeting, European Central Bank policymakers are poised to deliver another bumper hike on Thursday in a show of determination to tame soaring inflation. Steep increases in the price of energy in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine have heaped pressure on households and sent the pace of consumer price rises to new highs. Eurozone inflation hit 9.1 percent in August, a record in the history of the single currency and well above the two-percent rate targeted by the ECB.

Meanwhile on Monday, the euro fell to a 20-year low against the dollar Monday, dropping below \$0.99 as fears of a eurozone recession grew. The ECB was unlikely to raise its rates "with the explicit goal of strengthening the currency", said Frederik Ducrozet, head of macro-economic research at Pictet, but the euro's struggles against the greenback could "have some bearing on its decision-making".

The Frankfurt-based institution is playing catch-up with other central banks in the United States and Britain that started raising rates harder and faster in response to inflation.

The "only question" for the ECB's meeting this week was "whether it will be a 50 or 75 basis point hike," said Carsten Brzeski, head of macro at the ING bank.

#### 'Determination'

Speaking at the annual Jackson Hole central banking symposium at the end of August, ECB board member Isabel Schnabel said the central bank needed to show "determination" to tame price rises. Under this approach, the central bank would respond "more forcefully to the current bout of inflation, even at the risk of lower growth and higher unemployment", she said.

In her speech in the US, Schnabel stressed the need for the people to "trust" that the ECB will restore their purchasing power. The ECB's 25-member governing council surprised with a 50-basis-point hike at its last meeting in July, bringing an end to eight years of negative interest rates in one fell swoop.

So-called forward guidance issued by the ECB, which limited its scope for action, has been ditched. Policymakers would now take their decisions "meeting-by-meeting", the ECB President Christine Lagarde announced in July. With that, the door has been opened for the ECB to follow in the footsteps of the US Federal Reserve and raise rates by a 75 basis points. — AFP

Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

But analysts blame Erdogan's own government for pushing ahead with policies that have devalued the lira by more than 50 percent in 12 months. That has made energy imports even more expensive and forced Turkey to strike deals with former regional rivals in a bid to prop up its depleting hard currency reserves. It has also prompted Turks to buy even more dollars in a bid to preserve their eroding savings—a vicious circle that analysts warn can only be broken with sharp interest rate hikes. — AFP



## Business

# Nile islanders face eviction to make way for Egypt's latest grand plan

## Government's billion-dollar plan features glittering skyscrapers, helipads and marinas

CAIRO: Residents of a Nile island in greater Cairo woke up in recent weeks to find officials taking measurements of their houses—a final step before enforcing demolition orders. Since then, people from Warraq—some of whom have been on the working-class, agricultural island for generations—have renewed efforts to oppose a mega development project that would see the island's character and their homes erased.

"Just give us a part of the island, even if it is behind a wall," one resident in his thirties told AFP, requesting anonymity due to security concerns. "We will not leave," he added, insisting he has all the proper documentation for his house.

With its green fields, red-brick buildings, irrigation canals and livestock farming, Warraq—located in Giza governorate and home to around 100,000 people—is just a ferry ride away from Cairo's traffic-choked streets. The government in late July evoked images of Manhattan as it unveiled an almost billion-dollar plan for the six-square-kilometer (over two-square-mile) island's redevelopment, featuring glittering skyscrapers, helipads and marinas.

Minister of Housing Assem Al-Gazzar has labeled those who oppose the redevelopment as "divisive forces of evil", calling the old buildings "dilapidated". But residents like the man in his thirties remain defiant. "We pay our taxes, our water and power bills, why can't we benefit from the development of our island?" he said.

### 'Ridiculous'

Authorities "gave some residents four days to leave their homes" in late July, a resident in his fifties told AFP, also requesting anonymity for security reasons. The move triggered demonstrations, clashes and arrests the following month as the years-long fight against the



CAIRO: This picture taken on May 14, 2021 shows an aerial view of the "Tahya Masr" (Long Live Egypt) overpass crossing the Nile river island of Warraq (left) on the northern outskirts of Egypt's capital Cairo from the district of Rod Al-Farag in Cairo (top) into the district of Imbaba in Cairo's twin city of Giza (bottom) to connect with the ring-road highway circling greater Cairo. —AFP photos



CAIRO: A trailer truck filled with sand waits on a dock near the construction site of new residential towers in the Nile island of Warraq in Giza province opposite the northern shore of Egypt's capital.

project kicked off again.

The government has been promising massive returns on the redevelopment of Warraq since the administration of long-time president Hosni Mubarak, who was deposed in 2011. The project for the capital's largest island was reactivated under current President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, whose other "mega projects" include a sparkling new capital rising from the sands 50 kilometers (30 miles) east of Cairo. The general-turned-president has entrusted military engineers with the Warraq project—dubbed "Horus City" after the ancient Egyptian sky god. In 2017, authorities moved to demolish "illegal" buildings on Warraq as part of a campaign aimed at restoring state-owned land.

At least one person was killed after the operation triggered clashes between residents and security forces. Anti-eviction advocates defended residents' legal

rights to the land, with lawyer Khaled Ali sharing copies of residents' property deeds on social media, as well as the birth certificate of one islander born there "100 years ago". But two years later, a committee of experts found the evictions to be "in the public interest".

The Warraq resident in his fifties, who works in the agriculture sector, said he was not against relocating but demanded fair compensation, calling a recent government offer "ridiculous". "They proposed 1,400 Egyptian pounds (\$73) per square meter," he said. "You can't buy anything off the island with that."

### 'Gentrification'

Residents of other islands fear the Warraq project is just the beginning. This year, 17 Nile islands including Warraq were handed over to the army and subsequently lost their nature reserve status. Opposing urban develop-

ment projects can come at a cost. Warraq activist Ramy Kamel spent more than two years in pre-trial detention on "terrorism" charges before being released in January.

"Kamel was one of the most committed activists in tracking state violations against Coptic displacement due to security concerns or urban development initiatives," historian Amy Fallas told AFP, referring to Egypt's main Christian minority. While state bulldozers have recently targeted more affluent neighborhoods, urban planner Ahmed Zaazaa said low socio-economic districts were the first to be razed. "It's a gentrification process—the city centre is being emptied of poverty to make way for investment," he told AFP.

One-third of Egypt's 103 million people live in poverty, according to World Bank figures, with another third vulnerable to becoming destitute. Zaazaa says the Cairo

redevelopments aim to prepare the city "to accommodate the new capital". "Historic and traditional districts of Cairo are being destroyed" so workers can reach the new area, he said.

Some residents have been relocated to "mega public housing projects on the periphery", but most find "other informal areas a better solution", he added. Using official statements, media reports and satellite imagery, Zaazaa has estimated that "15,000 buildings have been demolished" in Cairo since Sisi took power in 2013. Residents of Warraq fear displacement will irrevocably rupture their tight-knit community, which is already feeling the pressure as development plans progress.

"Non-residents are not allowed on the island," said the resident in his thirties. "One of the ferries was recently closed," he said, and the remaining two "are monitored by security services around the clock". —AFP

## German car sales up in August but outlook stays gloomy

FRANKFURT: German car sales rose in August, official figures published Monday showed, despite persistent supply bottlenecks which have led to hefty declines in recent months. Just under 200,000 vehicles were registered in Germany in August, three percent more than in the same month last year, the federal transport authority KBA said in a statement.

The increase arrests months of decline with new registrations falling by 12.9 percent and 18.1 percent in July and June, respectively. However, the rise was "simply the result of an extremely weak August last year, as well as an extra working day in August 2022", the VDIK car importers' federation said in a

statement. "Minimal growth in car registrations cannot hide the fact that the German car market is headed towards its worst result in 30 years," VDIK president Reinhard Zirpel said.

Monthly sales were still "well below" the average of recent years, while new orders had decreased "significantly", he said. Auto manufacturers have had to deal with supply issues for months, with shortages of key components leading to intermittent production stops and a slump in sales.

In particular, a shortage of semiconductors, used in the vehicles' electronic systems, has slowed the industry down. The production issues have been compounded by rising energy prices, which have dampened demand and put Europe on course for a recession later this year. Battery-powered vehicles continued to outperform the general car market, with sales up 10.9 percent in August on the previous year. With slightly more than 32,000 units sold, the electric vehicles represented 16.1 percent of the car market in August. —AFP



FRANKFURT: Around 200,000 new cars were registered in Germany in February. —AFP

## Iran says hopes for sanction relief to export gas to Europe

TEHRAN: Iran said Monday it hopes to see US sanctions eased or lifted to allow it to sell natural gas to Europe, easing the continent's shortfall as Russian energy exports are restricted. "Given Europe's energy supply problems triggered by the Ukraine crisis, Iran could provide Europe's energy needs if sanctions against it are lifted," said foreign ministry's spokesman Nasser Kanani.

Iran is engaged in talks with world powers to revive its 2015 nuclear deal which the United States unilaterally abandoned in 2018, with Tehran pushing for the lifting of US economic sanctions. "We hope an agreement will be reached to let Iran play a more efficient role, with the aim of providing the energy needed for countries around the world and for European countries," Kanani told a weekly news conference.

Iran has the world's second largest natural gas reserves, after Russia, but lacks the infrastructure to increase exports, which are currently limited to Iraq and Turkey. Iran and the six other parties to the 2015 nuclear accord — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — have been negotiating a return to the agreement.

It gave Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program to guarantee that Tehran can not develop a nuclear weapon — something it has always denied seeking. — AFP

## Crypto skeptics look to bend the ear of regulators

LONDON: Cryptocurrency critics, including economists and researchers, will gather in London and online this week to get their message across to regulators about the booming but volatile sector. A number of governments have expressed concerns over cryptocurrencies, but those behind the first Crypto Policy Symposium say they hope the event will prompt much more "critical discourse" of the sector.

"There are so many crypto conferences but they

are funded by the crypto industry," said Martin Walker, a co-organizer. "The goal is to dispel some myths created by the crypto industry and to make policy makers start asking the right questions."

But Walker, a banking IT expert, is quick to reject claims that Monday and Tuesday's event is an "anti-crypto conference". Instead he says it is a chance to hear the critical voices of specialists in financial bubbles, researchers who have evaluated the industry's carbon footprint and engineers who question the effectiveness of decentralized technologies. "We've got regulators from all over the world," he said. About 1,000 people have signed up to watch the conference online and UK officials are expected to attend a live event in London on Tuesday.

The conference comes as the price of bitcoin has plunged from a peak of nearly \$69,000 last

October to around \$20,000. The risky nature of the ultra-volatile and poorly regulated market for retail investors will be particularly highlighted.

Many central banks and financial market regulators have warned about the dangers posed by cryptocurrencies. But in the absence of a clear legislative framework, users are rarely informed when making their investments, say crypto critics. The collapse of cryptocurrency investment platform Celsius left customers in despair and unable to recover investments that sometimes included life savings.

The firm faced mounting troubles until it froze withdrawals in mid-June and a court filing showed it owed \$4.7 billion to its users. "People didn't understand that their money wasn't secure and they still don't understand why they can't get it back," said Amy Castor, a respected freelance journalist who is among the most vocal of cryptocurrency critics. — AFP

## European stocks, euro tumble as Russia fuels crisis

LONDON: European stocks tumbled Monday and the euro hit a new 20-year dollar low on energy crisis fears, after Russia said it would not restart gas flows to Germany and effectively most of the continent. Natural gas prices spiked almost a third, while oil added to strong gains as OPEC and its Russia-ally allies decided at a meeting Monday to lower crude output in a bid to lift prices.

Europe's fast-moving gas crisis sent Frankfurt equities slumping more than three percent before trimming losses, while Paris shed two percent at one stage. The gas crisis also hit the pound, which hit a post-pandemic low of \$1.1444. It pulled back up to around \$1.15 after Liz Truss was confirmed as the successor to Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

### 'Weaponization of energy'

"Russia's ongoing weaponization of energy supplies continues to increase downside risks for European economies and the euro," said Lee Hardman, currency analyst at financial services group MUFJ. The euro sank Monday to \$0.9878,

its lowest since December 2002, despite expectations the European Central Bank will hike interest rates again Thursday to combat soaring inflation. The shared eurozone unit has collapsed by about 13 percent against the dollar since the start of the year, hit also by the US Federal Reserve's more aggressive monetary tightening.

State gas giant Gazprom announced late Friday the key Nord Stream pipeline would remain shut indefinitely, blaming leaks. Gazprom's announcement came the same day as the G7 nations said they would work to quickly implement a price cap on Russian oil exports, a move that would starve the Kremlin of critical revenue for its war on Ukraine.

Resumption of deliveries via the pipeline, which runs from near Saint Petersburg to Germany under the Baltic Sea, had been due to resume on Saturday after what Gazprom had described as three days of maintenance work.

### 'Grim shadow before winter'

The news intensified an energy crisis caused by Europe's sanctions on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine in February. Investors are fearful of an energy supply crunch during the peak-demand northern hemisphere winter. That could potentially lead to a painful recession. "Russia's decision to turn off Europe's gas hangs over the continent like a grim shadow ahead of winter," said AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould. At the same time, gov-



TOKYO: A man stands in front of an electronic quotation board displaying the rate of the Japanese yen against the US dollar in Tokyo. —AFP

ernments worldwide are grappling with the impact of rocketing domestic energy costs.

Germany on Sunday unveiled a new 65-billion-euro (\$65-billion) package to help households cope with soaring prices, and eyed windfall profits from energy companies to help fund the move. That took

Berlin's total relief to almost 100 billion euros since the start of the Ukraine war. Elsewhere on Monday, Asian bourses experienced mixed trade as last week's upbeat US jobs report partly offset fears over Europe's outlook—and China's new COVID lockdowns. — AFP

## Business

# KIPCO shareholders approve company's merger with QPIC

## Combined entity to be one of the largest public investment holdings in MENA



KUWAIT: Sheikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (center) addresses the extraordinary General Assembly meeting on Monday.



KUWAIT: At the Extraordinary General Assembly meeting, the shareholders of KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - approved the company's merger by amalgamation with QPIC.

The shareolders also approved the increase of KIPCO's current authorized capital of KD 300,000,000 and its issued and paid-up capital of KD 264,000,000 such that the authorized, issued and paid-up capital of the company becomes KD 504,847,626,900. This in-kind increase of 91.2 percent in issued and paid-up capital is to allow for the allocation of

2,408,476,269 shares to QPIC shareholders, at a swap ratio of 2.24 new KIPCO shares for every QPIC share. The capital increase is subject to the approval of the merger by QPIC's shareholders.

KIPCO obtained the approval of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) for the merger in June, and the approval of the Competition Protection Agency (CPA) in August. QPIC will be holding an EGM to obtain the approval of its shareholders, following which several procedures must take place. The merger transaction is expected to be completed before the end of 2022.

Sheikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, KIPCO's Group Chief Executive Officer,

said: "We are delighted to have obtained the approval of our shareholders to merge with QPIC. This is an important milestone in this transformative transaction that will make the combined entity one that ranks among the largest public investment holding companies in the MENA region. We now await the results of the EGM of QPIC so that we can proceed with the final procedures and close the transaction before the end of the year."

She added: "We believe that the private sector has a major role to play in creating a more sustainable Kuwaiti economy, in line with the vision 'New Kuwait 2035'. I would like to thank the CMA, CPA, the Ministry of Commerce and

Industry and Boursa Kuwait for their efforts to ensure that this transaction is one that takes into account the best interest of all stakeholders and one that contributes to enhancing Kuwait's overall economic position. I also express my appreciation to our shareholders for their trust, and to our Board of Directors for their guidance and support."

Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - KIPCO - is a holding company that focuses on investments in the Middle East and North Africa. Its strategy of acquiring, building, scaling and selling companies in the MENA region has worked successfully for over 30 years.

## Cuban peso in record fall amid economic crisis

HAVANA: The Cuban peso is at its weakest against the US dollar since the 1990s, a currency tracker said Sunday, as the communist island struggles through its worst economic crisis since the fall of the Soviet bloc. It now takes 150 Cuban pesos to buy a US dollar-and the same to buy a euro-on the informal currency market, according to independent journal El Toque, which publishes a daily listing of unofficial exchange rates.

"The exchange rate is a reflection of the contraction in national productive activity, of scarcity, of monetary imbalances and of despair," Colombia-

based Cuban economist Pavel Vidal told AFP. Cuba is undergoing its worst economic crisis since the 1990s, with food and medicine shortages and daily blackouts.

The island's currency hit its low point of 150 at week's end, slipping slightly from the previous rate of 148 pesos to the dollar. The island's central bank, trying to put the brakes on peso devaluation, last month began trading at a fixed parity of 120 pesos in state exchange houses-the same rate then prevailing in the informal market.

The dollar's value skyrocketed in January 2021 after the central government in Havana announced financial reform measures and set the official exchange rate at 24 pesos.

That unleashed a spiral in costs, with the inflation rate hitting 70 percent by the end of 2021.

Vidal said the government's "desperate" effort to obtain foreign currency to pay for imports and support productive activity was understandable.



"However," he said, "the exchange market is not the way." A fixed rate of 120 pesos to the dollar "is not going to work in an economy that continues to suffer a balance-of-payments crisis" and where an aging electricity system results in regular blackouts. —AFP



Cyrus Mistry

## Former Tata Sons chairman Mistry dies in car crash

MUMBAI: Cyrus Mistry, the 54-year-old former chairman of Indian conglomerate Tata Sons, has died in a road accident near the financial capital Mumbai, Indian police said.

The accident took place in Palghar, located about 100km (62 miles) north of Mumbai, on Sunday afternoon. Mistry was travelling to Mumbai from Gujarat with three others, a top police official in Palghar district, said. A senior Mumbai police official said the car in which Mistry was travelling had rammed into a divider, and that he had died on site.

In 2016, Mistry was replaced in a sudden corporate shakeup that led former Chairman Ratan Tata to come out of retirement to lead the firm on a temporary basis. Mistry's ouster created a bitter public feud between the former chairman and the group's board.

Prior to his time with Tata, Mistry was best known as the son of Indian construction billionaire Pallonji Mistry and served as head of Shapoorji Pallonji Group, a major construction company known for erecting skyscrapers and stadiums across India.

Several prominent politicians and industrialists tweeted their condolences after news of Mistry's passing was reported. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Mistry's demise untimely and shocking.

Tata Consultancy Services, in which Tata Sons owns a majority stake, said it was mourning the untimely demise of its former chairman, adding that the company was offering its "deepest condolences and prayers" to his family and friends. "He was a warm, friendly, and congenial person who built a strong relationship with the TCS family during his time as the chairman of the company," TCS said in a statement.

Mistry was the sixth chairman of the Tata group, a conglomerate started more than 150 years ago, and the second named Tata. He was the brother-in-law of Noel Tata, half-brother of Ratan Tata, Mistry's predecessor as chair. Born on July 4, 1968, Mistry completed his graduation in civil engineering from London's Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine and followed it up with a masters in Management from the London Business School. —Agencies

## 'Japa': Emigration beguiles middle classes in troubled Nigeria

LAGOS: Ayo Aroloye was holding his newborn son when a power cut plunged the delivery room of the Lagos hospital into darkness. The 34-year-old had to turn on his phone's torch so that the doctor who was about to stitch up his wife could see what he was doing.

Even though he earned an above-average salary as a banker, Aroloye saw the traumatic event as a sign that his country was broken. "The Nigerian dream died in me," he said.

Like many other Nigerians, Aroloye decided it was time to "japa"—a word in the Yoruba language that means "to flee." After a two-year wait to get visas, he moved with his family to Canada, where he has now been living for four months.

Nigerians, rich and poor, have migrated to greener pastures for decades. Today, though, anecdotal evidence suggests that among the middle classes, the outflow has become a flood, fuelled by a slumping currency, worsening insecurity, spiraling inflation and corruption. Accurate figures for net emigration are hard to come by, and a government agency, the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, cautions that while people do leave, some "constantly" return. But these days, asking an educated Nigerian "what are your japa plans?" is as common as asking about their work or health, according to eight people from different backgrounds who spoke with AFP.

Not everyone can afford to emigrate, especially to countries that middle- and upper-class Nigerians aim for, like Canada, the US, the UK or other European countries.

Visas for those countries can be expensive and the authorities often require proof of funds for daily

expenses, even after the visa has been paid. But armed with patience-it can take years to secure the paperwork-and often with financial support from relatives, increasing numbers are heading abroad for work or study.

### 'Privileged poor'

"Nigerians' assessment of their personal living conditions and the country's economic situation have worsened dramatically over the past two years," the pan-African survey group Afrobarometer survey wrote in August. With almost 20 percent inflation in July, many Nigerians can no longer buy items they were once able to afford.

Chuka Okeke is a Lagos-based project manager with a degree in computer science who earns around 650,000 naira (about \$1,500) a month.

"Three years ago, I would call myself middle class but now I'm just a privileged poor person," he said, half-jokingly. "I'm considering japa via the study route," said the 33-year-old father of one. "It's a whole mess and I didn't create the mess, so I don't think I owe the country any loyalty to stay and fix it." For Stella Ohemu, a 30-year-old pharmacist living in the capital Abuja and who earns around 110,000 naira (about 260 dollars) a month, life is "a merry-go-round."

"I've been working for three years. I had two jobs at one point, but it still wasn't enough," she said, abandoning at least for now her dream of opening her own pharmacy. She is applying for visas to work in Europe or in the US, where she is "sadly open to doing anything." Even among those who earn much more, japa is enticing. Augustine Ugi, a 36-year-old CEO of a software development company based in Lagos, earns "between five and ten million" naira (about 11,000 to 23,000 dollars) a month and employs more than 50 people.

"I am leaving because I have to sustain what I have built," said the recent father of twins who is moving to London but will continue travelling back to Nigeria to maintain his operations.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmygal. "This EU grant funding will help ensure housing and education for internally displaced persons and returnees and support Ukraine's agriculture sector," spokesman Eric Mamer said.

In addition to the latest slice of aid-part of a larger support program begun in April-Ukraine will also be able to apply to the EU digital economy fund to develop high-tech training and industry.

Monday's meeting of the association council will be the first since Ukraine, which was invaded by Russia in February, was accepted as a formal candidate to join the EU. The Brussels meeting was being chaired by EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and EU enlargement commissioner



More and more middle-class Nigerians are talking about starting a new life abroad. —AFP

### Frustration

On top of a sickly economy and ramshackle infrastructure, Nigeria's rampant insecurity and corruption are also cited by some as reasons why they up sticks. "A lot of people who are rich in Nigeria tend to be (involved) in things that are illegal... and you're here trying to follow the law, to be a good citizen, so you get frustrated," said Emmanuel Jimawo who arrived in Canada last week on a skilled worker visa. The 32-year-old, who earned around 180,000 naira (about 420 dollars) a month as a business analyst at a utility company in Benin City, said he already had five interviews since moving, boosting his hopes of a brighter future. A civil servant in Abuja who asked to be identified only by his first name Victor also cited graft as a factor for leaving. "They (politicians) are keeping what they have for themselves and it affects everything else," said the 34-year-old who earns about the same as Ohemu and is applying for a visa for Canada.

Many young people drew up plans to emigrate after a bloody crackdown in 2020 on protests for better governance. "We had come out to say 'no more' and what we got was indiscriminate killings," said Victor. "That was when some people realized 'there are no options here, I'm done'." —AFP

Oliver Varhelyi, and seek to advance Ukraine's participation in EU programs. Full membership may be years away but the EU and most of its member states are backing Kyiv's struggle with Moscow by providing weapons, economic aid and sanctions against Russia.

"Among our current priorities is the introduction of a total energy embargo against Russia," Shmygal said on his Telegram account, as he was welcomed to EU headquarters.

"Ukraine has the largest underground deposits for storing gas and could become Europe's gas vault," he said. "After obtaining the status of candidate country, the government aspires to accelerate integration into the EU energy market." —AFP



A mural of Marilyn Monroe, Kurt Cobain and Jim Morrison by Jules Muck aka @muckrock is seen in Venice in Los Angeles, California. —AFP Photos



Pedestrians walk past a mural of actress Marilyn Monroe in Cannes, southeastern France.

# Bookish and traumatized: The real Marilyn Monroe comes to Venice

Sixty years after her death, Marilyn Monroe is back in the limelight as the subject of the buzzy Netflix biopic 'Blonde', which premieres at the Venice Film Festival on Thursday. Based on the bestselling, semi-fictionalized book by Joyce Carol Oates, it is a dark retelling of the iconic actress's life that lifts the lid on the trauma and fierce intelligence behind the bubbly, sexualized image of the time. It looks set to propel Cuban actress Ana de Armas into the A-list and is directed by Australian Andrew Dominik, who has made two other darkly poetic biopics—"Chopper" and "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford". These are five lesser-known facts about Marilyn that have become far more important to her story in recent years:

## Troubled childhood

There was glamour galore in her adult life but Marilyn's childhood, when she was called Norma Jeane, was a very different story. She grew up partly with her mother but when Gladys Monroe was placed in a psychiatric hospital, her young daughter was shuffled between orphanages and foster homes. She developed a stutter which a therapist helped her manage. She never knew her real father and for several years believed her mother's account that he had died. His true identity was only confirmed in 2022 in a French television documentary, which revealed after DNA tests that her biological father was Charles Stanley Gifford, a colleague of her mother's at a film production company.



Visitors look at an Andy Warhol Marilyn Monroe piece at the The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City.

## Bookish with big ambitions

In the years since Marilyn's death a more complex picture has emerged of the actress and singer, who was objectified as the definitive "blonde bombshell" pin-up. Marilyn was not only an avid reader but also tried her hand at poetry and yearned for challenging acting roles, including the complex female protagonist in Dostoyevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov".

The shelves of her library were filled with classics by writers including James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Marcel Proust and Gustave Flaubert. In the clearest sign of her serious acting ambitions, she broke out of the Hollywood cocoon just when her career was taking

off to join the prestigious Actor's Studio school in New York. Of all the students that passed through its doors, director Lee Strasberg said two pupils shone brighter than the rest—Marlon Brando and Marilyn Monroe.

## Elevated Ella Fitzgerald

Among Marilyn's role models was Abraham Lincoln. She would make her own mark on the civil rights movement, helping to elevate jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald at a time when racism was rife in the United States. As Fitzgerald liked to recount, Marilyn used her star power to get her a gig at famous Los Angeles night club, the Mocambo. Marilyn told the

owner if Fitzgerald got a run on stage, she would sit up front each night, assuring big business for the bar. It was a deal and a jazz star was born.

## Rebel with a cause

Decades before MeToo, Marilyn was challenging the male-dominated studio system. As early as 1953, she published an article in the industry magazine Motion Pictures Magazine calling out the "wolves I have known" prowling and exploiting young women. "Girls in every walk of life have to take great care that they don't find themselves just another scalp on some man's belt," she wrote in a remarkably candid article. A year later, she founded her own production company, Marilyn Monroe Productions, with the photographer Milton Greene.

## Mystery to the grave

Marilyn's shock death at the age of 36 remains a mystery and source of widespread speculation. "Probable suicide" was the coroner's conclusion but many have debated whether the act was accidental or intentional. Some speculate she may even have been murdered, following rumors of romantic entanglements with US President John F. Kennedy and his brother Bobby. She was discovered in bed at home on August 5, 1962, with one hand holding the telephone. No note was found. Her third husband, playwright Arthur Miller, did not attend her funeral but her second husband and lifelong friend, baseball star Joe DiMaggio did. The pair had reportedly been planning to remarry on August 8, the day she was buried. —AFP



Autin Wright helps to put some finishing touches on 'Forever Marilyn', a sculpture by Seward Johnson, on July 14, 2011 in Chicago, Illinois. The stainless steel and aluminum sculpture which stands 26 feet tall and weighs 34,000 pounds has been unveiled and remain on display in Chicago through the spring of 2012. The sculpture was inspired by Marilyn Monroe's iconic scene in the 1955 movie Seven Year Itch. —AFP



An ambulance and police paramedic carry the body of American actress Marilyn Monroe out of a mortuary van, on August 05, 1962, after she was discovered dead in her house in Brentwood, Los Angeles, California. —AFP

## One century on, the cult of Mussolini persists in Italy

One hundred years after he took power, the cult of Benito Mussolini persists in the small Italian town of Predappio, where his tomb draws tens of thousands of visitors each year. Many are just curious but others are driven by nostalgia for a past that weighs heavily on the party tipped for victory in the general election on September 25 - Giorgia Meloni's post-fascist Brothers of Italy. A white marble bust of "Il Duce" adorns the crypt in the family chapel in the cemetery of this northeastern town, where Mussolini was born, while his sarcophagus is draped with the tricolour Italian flag.

"We will never forget you!" says one message in the gold book of condolences, while others say: "We will be reborn" and "Come back!" One young visitor with a shaved head, visibly moved, brushed the tombstone with one hand before giving the Fascist salute to the man described on one of the ribbons in the crypt as the "father of the country". Others who came with their families took a more nuanced view of the legacy of Mussolini, who took power after the so-called March on Rome in October 1922 before installing a dictatorship in 1925 that lasted until 1943.

"Mussolini was a great statesman. He promoted labor law and social protection. But he made mistakes with his alliance with Hitler and the shameful racial laws," said Fabiana di Carlo, a 42-year-old civil servant visiting from Rome with her daughter. Her view is typical of many Italians, who draw a line between what Mussolini did before and after his alliance with the Nazis and Italy's entry into World War II. An IPSOS survey last year found 66 percent of Italians between 16 and 25 agreed the Fascist regime was "a dictatorship to condemn in part but which also brought benefits".

## Nostalgic attitudes

The legacy of Fascism is being reexamined in this centenary year due to the surge in support for Meloni. Her party grew out of the Italian Social Movement, which was itself founded by Mussolini supporters after his death in April 1945. In Predappio, many visitors said they would be voting for Meloni. They included di Carlo, who said the Brothers of Italy leader was "intelligent and competent", and voiced hope she would become Italy's first



A picture taken in the cemetery of Predappio shows the tomb of Italian politician, military and founder of Fascism Benito Mussolini. —AFP

female prime minister. Meloni insists there is "no room for nostalgic attitudes of Fascism" in her party—which advocates a eurosceptic, nationalist Christian program—although it has rejected calls to remove the MSI's tricolour flame from its logo. Her likely ascent to power is causing concern both at home and across Europe. But she is polling at around 24 percent, as part of a right-wing coalition that together commands around 47 percent support.

"I don't think there is any risk of returning to historic Fascism," said Gianfranco Miro Gori, a local leader of the National Association of Italian Partisans, the name for the WWII anti-fascist fighters. "But it is possible there will be a crackdown in the authoritarian sense and a restriction of freedoms, such as freedom of the press," he said. However, 39-year-old Ivano, an admirer of Mussolini who works in a vineyard in Cuneo in northwest Italy and was visiting Predappio, insisted there was nothing to fear from Meloni. "She isn't Fascist. She's Atlanticist and anti-Putin," he said.

## Fascist souvenirs

Mussolini's tomb draws more than 70,000 visitors a year and there is a lively tourist trade in Predappio, where numerous shops sell fascist souvenirs. There are "anti-Communist" bracelets, swastikas, bottles of wine adorned with the dictator's image, posters proclaiming "Italy for the Italians" and even a "Fascist Handbook". —AFP

## Marilyn Monroe: A life in dates

Marilyn Monroe's short life, now dramatized in a new Netflix movie getting its world premiere in Venice this week, was as tragic as it was glamorous. A snapshot in dates of one of Hollywood's eternal stars:

### 1926: Norma Jeane born

Norma Jeane Mortenson is born in Los Angeles on June 1, 1926. She grows up without a father figure in a family shadowed by mental illness. Her mother, Gladys Monroe, is twice interned in psychiatric facilities. During those periods Norma Jeane is sent to foster homes. Gladys, a film editor, also regularly leaves her daughter in movie theatres while she goes to work. Later, Monroe recalls sitting transfixed for hours and falling in love with, among others, Jean Harlow, Hollywood's first "blonde bombshell". She takes the name Baker, which is the surname of her mother's first husband.

### 1942: Young bride

At 16, she marries Jim Dougherty, a neighbor, to avoid being sent to another foster home. The following year Dougherty leaves to join the navy and Norma Jeane goes to work in a munitions factory.

### 1946: Call me Marilyn

At the factory she is spotted by a photographer and begins modelling. She divorces Dougherty and clinches her first studio con-

tract with 20th Century Fox, changing her name to Marilyn Monroe.

### 1952: 'Gentlemen Prefer Blondes'

Six years later she stars in the Howard Hawks comedy classic that will become one of her most famous films. She protests the disparity of pay between her salary (\$18,000) and the one received by her co-star Jane Russell (\$40,000).

### 1954: Joe DiMaggio

Monroe's second marriage on January 14 is to ex-baseball superstar Jo DiMaggio. The union lasts nine months but they remain friends for life. Monroe stars that year in Billy Wilder's "Seven Year Itch" that includes one of cinemas most iconic scenes involving the whoosh of air from an underground subway, whipping up Monroe's fulsome white dress.

### 1955: Lee Strasberg school

She joins the renowned Lee Strasberg school of acting. Later the master teacher says of all his talented and famous pupils just two stood out from the rest: Marlon Brando and Marilyn.

### 1956: Marries Arthur Miller

On June 29 she marries celebrated writer and "Death of a Salesman" playwright Arthur Miller, whom she met a year earlier at acting school, beginning a tumultuous relationship that lasts five years.

### 1958: 'Some Like it Hot'

Another of Monroe's most famous films but the shoot in California is notoriously difficult. By now Marilyn is battling addiction, is frequently late and struggles with her lines. The cross-dressing caper, nominated for six Oscars and winning one, is now often cited as among the best films ever made and influenced later hits from "Tootsie" to "Mrs Doubtfire".

### 1961: Troubled mind

Monroe and Miller divorce in Mexico on January 20. During the marriage, she has at least two miscarriages and makes several suicide attempts. She is twice admitted to hospitals for psychiatric observation.

### 1962: Mysterious death

In January 1962, she makes one of her most famous public appearances, singing "Happy Birthday Mr President" to John F. Kennedy. To do so she abandons midway the film shoot of George Cukor's "Something's Got to Give". When she returns 12 days later the film is cancelled and Fox fires her. Monroe is discovered dead in her bed in her Los Angeles home in the early hours of August 5, 1962 in circumstances that remain murky. She is 36. The coroner calls her death a "probable suicide" from an overdose of sleeping pills but to this day the death of one of Hollywood's greatest stars remains shrouded in mystery. —AFP

# Jailed Iran filmmakers vow to keep creating

Two jailed Iranian filmmakers have issued a defiant challenge to authorities in Iran, vowing in a message to fellow cineastes at the Venice Film Festival that they will not stop creating. Mohammad Rasoulof and Jafar Panahi—whose film “Kheir Nist” (No Bears) is in competition for Venice’s top Golden Lion prize—have both been behind bars since July amid a crackdown on dissident voices in all sectors of society.

Rasoulof, 50, was arrested after having launched a petition from directors and actors urging security forces to lay down their arms in the face of a wave of protests. His anti-capital-punishment movie “There is No Evil” won the

Golden Bear at the Berlin film festival in 2020. Fellow prize-winning director Panahi, 62, was detained while seeking information about Rasoulof’s whereabouts and told he had to serve a six-year sentence previously handed out. A third filmmaker, Mostafa Aleahmad, was also arrested and jailed in July.

In the statement issued Sunday by festival organizers, the directors said that as members of Iran’s independent cinema movement with a calling to create, “those in power see us as criminals”. “The history of Iranian cinema witnesses the constant and active presence of independent directors who have struggled to push back cen-

sorship and to ensure the survival of this art,” the directors wrote. “While on this path, some were banned from making films, others were forced into exile or reduced to isolation. And yet, the hope of creating again is a reason for existence,” said the statement.

“No matter where, when, or under what circumstances, an independent filmmaker is either creating or thinking about creation. We are filmmakers, independent ones.” Panahi has won a slew of awards at international festivals for films critiquing modern Iran, including the top prize in Berlin for “Taxi” in 2015, and best screenplay at Cannes for his film “Three Faces” in 2018. He was

arrested in 2010 following his support for anti-government protests and later convicted of “propaganda against the system”. The six-year sentence he is now serving relates to that conviction.

The current repression in Iran, which comes one year into the rule of President Ebrahim Raisi, the ultra-conservative former judiciary chief, is not only targeted at artists. Regime critics from a wide range of sectors have been arrested, from trade union activists, to campaigners against the enforced wearing of the headscarf for women, to religious minorities. International film festivals, including Venice and Cannes, have called for the filmmakers’ release.—AFP



Finnish actor Antti Virmavirta (left), Finnish director Hanna Vastinsalo (3rd left), Finnish actress Riitta Havukainen (center), Finnish actor Leo Sjöman (2nd right) and Finnish actress Emma Kilpimaa (right) arrive on September 4, 2022 for the film ‘Palimpsest’ presented in the Biennale College Cinema section during the 79th Venice International Film Festival at Lido di Venezia in Venice, Italy. —AFP photos



British singer and actor Harry Styles (right) waves as he arrives at the pier of the Excelsior Hotel during the 79th Venice International Film Festival at Lido di Venezia in Venice, on September 5, 2022.

## Venice gets a dose of Harry Styles fever

Fans went wild for the arrival of music star Harry Styles in Venice on Monday, but any discussion of controversies around his film “Don’t Worry Darling” was quickly shut down. The mere presence of the 28-year-old in the film—a dystopia about a seemingly-perfect community with dark secrets—has ensured the internet is awash with unsubstantiated gossip.

Claims that the film’s lead star, Florence Pugh, fell out with director Olivia Wilde over the latter’s relationship with Styles have been denied but continue to keep tongues wagging. And there was further grist to the mill when Pugh failed to show up for the film’s press conference in Venice—though she was due to walk the red carpet for the premiere later on Monday.

Wilde had clearly had her fill of the rumors. “As for all the endless tabloid gossip and all the noise out there, the internet feeds itself. I don’t feel the need to contribute. I think it’s sufficiently well-nourished,” Wilde told reporters. Pugh, who plays a housewife determined to reveal the community’s secrets, was reportedly late to Venice because she

was filming “Dune: Part Two” in Hungary. “Florence is a force and we’re so grateful that she’s able to make it tonight despite being in production on ‘Dune,’” Wilde said. “I can’t say enough how honored I am to have her as our lead.”

### ‘Very lucky’

With millions of fans hanging on his every word, Styles was typically cautious. Asked about balancing his acting and music careers, Styles said he found them “opposite in a lot of ways”. “Making music is a really personal thing. There’s aspects of acting where you’re drawing from experience, but for the most part you’re pretending to play someone else. That’s what I find the most fun about it,” he said.

He will soon also be seen in “My Policeman”, having a passionate same-sex affair at a time when homosexuality was illegal in Britain. But Styles was non-committal about whether more acting was in his future. “I feel very lucky that I get to do something that I love as a job and being able to explore this has made me feel even luckier,” he said. “In



Harry Styles performs on NBC’s ‘Today’ morning television show in New York City. —AFP

terms of the future, I try not to think about it too much... one day at a time.”

Wilde said she hopes “Don’t Worry Darling” will generate discussion about patriarchal control at a contentious moment in US politics. “It’s unfortunately very timely but it’s also timeless. I don’t think there’ll ever be a time when the idea of controlling

someone’s body is not relevant to fight against,” Wilde said. “We want women to feel they are being heard and to feel inspired by... the kind of revolutionary who’s willing to sacrifice everything to do what’s right,” she added. “Those are the superheroes I want to see at this time.”—AFP

## Brendan Fraser makes Whale-sized comeback in Venice

In one of the most unexpected movie comebacks ever, Brendan Fraser transformed into a morbidly obese man for “The Whale” that premiered at the Venice Film Festival Sunday and made him an instant frontrunner for an Oscar. One of the biggest names in Hollywood in the 1990s, Fraser starred in a string of family friendly blockbusters as a muscle-bound hunk in films like “George of the Jungle” and “The Mummy”, before his cinema career fell off in the late 2000s. But his return as Charlie, a 600-pound (250-kilo) English professor trying to reconnect with his daughter, has drawn instant acclaim.

“I needed to learn to absolutely move in

a new way,” Fraser told reporters in Venice. “I developed muscles I didn’t know I had. I even felt a sense of vertigo at the end of the day when all the appliances were removed, as you do stepping off the boat here in Venice.” The movie is the latest from US director Darren Aronofsky, who won the top prize, the Golden Lion, in Venice in 2008 for “The Wrestler”, and is known for dark indie films such as “Black Swan” and “Requiem for a Dream”. “The Whale”, however, has a profoundly optimistic attitude.

### Praise for Fraser

As the story unfolds, the reasons for Charlie’s obesity emerge—rooted in trauma

linked to his sexuality and religion—but he never allows them to darken his view of the world. “Charlie is by far the most heroic man I’ve ever played,” Fraser said. “His superpower is to see the good in others and bring that out in them.” Aronofsky said this was “the most important message to put out in the world”.

“Everyone’s leaning into the cynicism and darkness and giving up hope, and it’s exactly what we don’t need right now. We have to lean into (the idea that) underneath it all, we really do care about each other,” the 53-year-old director said. While the film drew some criticism for being a “soupy melodrama”, in the words of Screen Daily, there was near-unanimous praise for Fraser’s performance. “The Brendanaissance is on! Fraser gives a towering performance, in every sense of the word,” wrote IndieWire. Deadline said “a never-better” Fraser is now “at the front of the Best Actor race”.

### ‘Lighthouse in a dark sea’

There have been some grumblings in the US press about whether an obese person should have been cast in the role. On that point, Aronofsky said: “I considered everyone, every kind of movie star on the planet, but none of it ever clicked. Then, a couple years ago, I caught a trailer for a Brazilian movie, kinda low budget. Brendan had a part in it and a lightbulb went off.” “The Whale” was originally a play by Samuel D Hunter, who helped adapt it for the screen. “I wrote this character from a very personal place. I have a history of self-medicating with food. I was a gay kid in a fundamentalist religious high school,” he said in Venice. “I was afraid to write it. The only way I could do it was write it from a place of love and empathy... I wanted him to be a lighthouse in a dark sea.” —AFP



Spanish actress Penelope Cruz arrives on September 4, 2022 for the screening of the film ‘L’Immensita’ (Immensity) presented in the Venezia 79 competition as part of the 79th Venice International Film Festival at Lido di Venezia in Venice, Italy.



US actress Sadie Sink arrives on September 4, 2022 for the screening of 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. —AFP photos



# A ruff deal: Hong Kong exodus sparks surge in abandoned pets



An employee of Hong Kong Dog Rescue (HKDR) walks Roxie (left) and Cassius, who were brought to the shelter after their owners made a sudden decision to relocate back to the United Kingdom, in Hong Kong. —AFP photos



Photo shows a dog sitting in a kennel at a Hong Kong Dog Rescue (HKDR) shelter.

Cassius and Roxie have spent three months at a Hong Kong dog shelter waiting for new owners. The two mongrels are victims of a surge in pet abandonments as the city experiences an exodus of residents due to China's crackdown on dissent as well as some of the world's strictest COVID restrictions. They were brought to Hong Kong Dog Rescue (HKDR) after their owners made a sudden decision to relocate back to Britain. It is an all too familiar story to people running animal shelters in Hong Kong these days.

"We are always full house," Eva Sit, communications director at HKDR, told AFP against a backdrop of near-constant excitable barks and yowls. "We find it very difficult to say no to surrender requests because we feel very bad for the dogs." Those giving up their pets, Sit explains, fill out a form that includes the reason why. Emigration used to account for two in 10 cases. "These days, it's almost the only reason. Like, maybe eight out of 10 surrender requests we get come with that reason," she said.

A huge number of local and foreign residents have quit Hong Kong over the last two years because of the political clampdown and harsh COVID control measures. While much of the world, including rival Asian business hub Singapore, has switched to living with COVID and are reopening, Hong Kong continues to follow a lighter version of China's strict zero-COVID rules. The result has been a sudden population decline. Between 2020 and 2022, there was a net outflow of around 200,000 residents, according to government figures.

### Flight shortage

Normally, most of those leaving would take their pets with them. But Hong Kong's self-



People take their dogs to a dog park in Hong Kong.

imposed pandemic isolation has made that increasingly hard. Once one of the world's busiest airports, Hong Kong International is handling just a fraction of flights compared with pre-pandemic levels. Many airlines are avoiding the city entirely because of its mandatory quarantine rules. In July,

just 401,000 passengers went through the airport—six percent of pre-pandemic levels.

The shortage of commercial flights means few available places for pets in the cargo hold or in the cabin, making emigrating with them either impossible or prohibitively expensive. Wealthier resi-

dents have even clubbed together to rent private planes to get animals out, with slots going from anything from HK\$150,000-HK\$250,000 (US\$19,000-US\$32,500). "It's very expensive, so I respect people who've done it," said Olivier, a French resident and dog owner, who has seen multiple friends plump for communal private jets. But many others have to make the heartbreaking decision to leave their pets behind.

### 'Your dog needs you'

Narelle Pamuk, founder of Sai Kung Stray Friends (SKSF), said that owners are often left with no choice. "They say people are bad when they leave their animals, but I have to say, not everybody is bad," she told AFP, adding that many simply could not find a flight—or afford one. "This whole pandemic has put people out of sorts completely. People didn't get a lot of warning, when they were losing their jobs, and they couldn't always take their pets with them because it's not easy." Harvir Kaur, a 23-year-old teacher in Hong Kong who is emigrating to Canada next year, is factoring the needs of her three-year-old pomeranian, Taffy, into her travel plans.

Kaur is not comfortable with sending her dog by cargo, the sole pet transportation option provided by Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong's flagship carrier. Instead, she is looking into options that allow her dog to travel in-cabin with her, regardless of costs. "I've never thought of leaving Taffy behind, I think that would be unethical," she said. "When you get a dog, it's not just a playtoy for you. Your dog needs you, maybe even more than you need your dog." —AFP



Founder of Sai Kung Stray Friends (SKSF) Narelle Pamuk hugs a dog at her shelter in Hong Kong.



Communications director of Hong Kong Dog Rescue (HKDR) Eva Sit plays with dogs at one of their shelters in Hong Kong.

## Filmmakers guilty of disturbing Estonia ferry wreck site

Two Swedish documentary-makers who filmed the wreck of the "Estonia" ferry were on Monday found guilty in a retrial of violating the sanctity of the site where hundreds perished. The Estonia sank in 1994, killing 852 people in one of the 20th century's worst maritime disasters. After deciding not to salvage the wreck, Sweden, Estonia and Finland agreed in 1995 to designate it a final resting place and make it illegal to disturb the site.

In 2019, a film crew sent a remote-operated submersible to the ship while putting together a documentary that aired the following year, revealing a massive hole in the hull and casting doubt on the findings of an official investigation into the sinking. The Gothenburg district court found in February 2021 that the documentary's director Henrik

Evertsson and deep-sea analyst Linus Andersson, both Swedes, had committed actions punishable under the so-called "Estonia Law".

However, it ruled they could not be held accountable since they were on a German-flagged ship in international waters at the time. While several countries have signed on to the 1995 accord, Germany has not. But a Gothenburg appeals court sent the case back to the lower court for a retrial, arguing that "Estonia Law" does apply because the filmmakers are Swedish. On Monday, judge Goran Lundahl said the lower court had taken into account that the wreck "is a grave site for a large number of people".

"Protecting the sanctity of the dead is more important than protecting freedom of expression and information", he said in

a statement. The court found however the pair's motive to be a mitigating factor and sentenced them to fines proportional to their income. The court did not specify the amount. The original inquiry into the disaster concluded it was caused by the bow door of the ship being wrenched open in heavy seas, allowing water to gush into the car deck.

Experts however told the filmmakers that only a massive external force would be strong enough to cause the hole in the hull, raising questions about what really happened. Survivors and relatives of the victims have fought for over two decades for a fuller investigation. Following the documentary, the laws banning dives were amended in order to allow a re-examination of the wreck. In July 2021, Sweden and Estonia opened a fresh investigation. —AFP



Chief district judge Goran Lundahl talks to journalists after the verdict in the case against filmmakers of the wreck of the ferry 'Estonia' was announced in Gothenburg District Court, Gothenburg, Sweden, on Sept 5, 2022. —AFP

## Sports

# Kyrgios stuns Medvedev at US Open as Gauff advances

## Tomljanovic ousts Samsonova to reach US Open quarters

**NEW YORK:** Australia's Nick Kyrgios sent defending champion Daniil Medvedev tumbling out of the US Open on Sunday as US teenager Coco Gauff reached the quarter-finals for the first time. The notoriously temperamental 23rd-seeded Kyrgios produced some scintillating shot-making on his way to a superb 7-6 (13/11), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over the world number one from Russia.

Kyrgios, who was beaten by Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final in July, showed grit and composure to save three set points in the opening set before holding his nerve to win an epic tie-break 13/11 before a raucous Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd. Although Kyrgios dropped the second set, he roared back to dominate Medvedev in the third and fourth sets to clinch victory in 2hr 53min.

"It was an amazing match, obviously Daniil as the defending champion had a lot of pressure on his shoulders, but I've been playing amazing the last couple of months," Kyrgios said after the win. "What a place to do it-packed house in New York. I'm extremely blessed." Medvedev meanwhile said the mercurial Kyrgios had elevated his play to the same level as great such as Rafael Nadal and Djokovic.

"Nick today played kind of at the level of Novak and Rafa," said the 26-year-old after seeing 21 aces and 53 winners whizz past him. "If he plays like this until the end of the tournament, he has all the chances to win it." Kyrgios will face Karen Khachanov in the quarter-finals on Tuesday. Khachanov equalled his best performance in a Grand Slam event by defeating Spanish 12th seed Pablo Carreno Busta in a 3hr 21min five-set thriller.

The 27th-seeded Khachanov dug deep to down Carreno Busta 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 on the Louis Armstrong Stadium. Elsewhere in the fourth round on Sunday, fifth seed Casper Ruud became the first

Norwegian man to reach the US Open quarter-finals with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2 victory over French lucky loser Corentin Moutet. The 23-year-old Ruud, seeded fifth, will face Italy's Matteo Berrettini for a place in the semi-finals.

Berrettini extended his impressive run of recent Grand Slam singles performances with a 3-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 defeat of Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. The 26-year-old from Rome missed Wimbledon earlier this year after testing positive for Covid-19, and was injured for the French Open. But Berrettini has now made the quarter-finals or better in the last five Grand Slams he has played in after Sunday's win. "It's not a secret for me the Slams are the goal of the season," he said. "I think it proves that my level is high in Slams ... I play my best tennis in the most important stages of the tour."

### Gauff marches on

In the women's draw meanwhile, rising American star Gauff kept home hopes alive with a battling 7-5, 7-5 win over China's Zhang Shuai on the Arthur Ashe Stadium. The 18-year-old 12th seed will now play France's in-form Caroline Garcia for a place in the semi-finals. Garcia, the world number 17, has emerged as a dark horse in New York despite a modest record in Grand Slams. The 28-year-old reached her only other Grand Slam last-eight on home ground at Roland Garros five years ago. But she arrived in New York brimming with confidence after claiming the Cincinnati Masters lead-in event, and so far at the Open has yet to drop a set.

### Tomljanovic ousts Samsonova

Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic followed up her victory over Serena Williams with another battling performance to beat Liudmila Samsonova and reach the



**NEW YORK:** Nick Kyrgios of Australia throws his racket to the ground against Daniil Medvedev of Russia during their Men's Singles Fourth Round match on Day Seven of the 2022 US Open at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on September 04, 2022. — AFP

quarter-finals of the US Open on Sunday. Tomljanovic—who knocked out tennis icon Williams in the third round on Friday—advanced to the last eight with a 7-6 (10/8), 6-1 victory over Samsonova. The 29-year-old world number 46 will play either Tunisia's Ons Jabeur or Russia's Veronika Kudermetova in the quarters. "The fact that I won, I'm still a little speechless," Tomljanovic said after her win.

Tomljanovic was set on the path to victory after a dramatic opening set which lasted 1hr 22mins. She

saved seven set points in an epic near 20-minute 10th game to hold serve at 4-5 down. She then saved another in the tie-break before clinching the set. "I don't know that it's 20 minutes ... If I knew it was that long I would probably panic a little bit," Tomljanovic said of the marathon 10th game. "I think it was just about staying in the moment. I just try to stay as calm as possible because inside I'm dying." After the marathon the first set, the second set was one more-sided with Tomljanovic wasting no time in wrapping up the victory. — AFP



**OHIO:** Gaby Lopez of Mexico kisses the trophy after winning the Dana Open presented by Marathon at Highland Meadows Golf Club on September 04, 2022. — AFP

## Lopez wins LPGA Dana Open with late birdie charge

**WASHINGTON:** Mexico's Gaby Lopez birdied the last three holes for the second consecutive day to fire an eight-under par 63 on Sunday and win the LPGA Dana Open by one stroke. World number 67 Lopez outdueled American Megan Khang down the stretch to finish 72 holes on 18-under 266 over a rain-softened Highland Meadows layout in Sylvania, Ohio.

The 28-year-old from Mexico City delivered a bogey-free final round for her third career LPGA title after winning at China's Blue Bay in 2018 and taking the 2020 Tournament of Champions. "I didn't really bring an attitude," Lopez said. "It was more of creating a quiet space before hitting the golf ball and committing to that before every single ball."

"It's so easy to get ahead of yourself, especially coming down the stretch, but if you keep it in the present, that's when magic happens." Khang was second, her best LPGA result, on 267 after a closing 64 with Germany's Caroline Masson third on 268 and US teen Lucy Li, Chinese teen Yin Ruoning and American Sarah Schmelzel on 269. Lopez, who began the round four strokes off the pace, sank a crucial 15-foot birdie putt at the par-5 18th to finish ahead of Khang, with a scream and fist pump of delight after the feat.

"I knew I had to make it because Megan was going to make hers," Lopez said. "What I thought was I practiced exactly for this moment. I want to be here and I'm just going to take care of this putt." Lopez shook off short missed putts to birdie five of her last nine holes. "Having that calmness and quiet space was exactly what we were working on. And it has paid off," Lopez said. "It just gets more simple if I do that, not overthinking. Not making more drama than it is."

Khang had reeled off six birdies in a nine-hole span to grab the lead, a run that started at the third, fifth and par-3 sixth holes. She added a three-foot birdie putt at the par-3 eighth, a 20-footer for birdie at the ninth and a 12-foot birdie putt at the 11th to reach 16-under and seize the lead alone. Playing partner Lopez made a run of four birdies in eight holes from the third through 10th and sank another at 13 to move one off the lead.

Khang escaped a fairway bunker to par the 15th but Lopez had a tap-in birdie at the 16th to grab a share of the lead. Lopez blasted out of a bunker at the par-5 17th to inches from the cup and tapped in for birdie, grabbing the lead alone after Khang lipped out on an eight-foot birdie putt. Both blasted out of greenside bunkers at the par-5 18th, Khang setting up a tap in while Lopez left herself 15 feet over a ridge from the fringe and made the tricky putt. — AFP

## Johnson wins the LIV Golf Boston in playoff

**NEW YORK:** Dustin Johnson rattled in a monster eagle putt at the first playoff hole to win the LIV Golf Invitational Boston, upstaging the raft of newcomers to the breakaway circuit. Johnson emerged triumphant from a three-way playoff that also featured Chile's Joaquin Niemann and India's Anirban Lahiri, both making their debuts in the controversial Saudi-backed series.

All three finished 54 holes at International Golf Club on 15-under par. World number two and reigning British Open champion, Cameron Smith, finished a shot back on 14-under in his LIV Golf debut, tying for fourth with England's Lee Westwood, who charged into contention with an eight-under par 62 but bogeyed his last hole to miss the playoff.

Johnson carded a five-under par 65 on Sunday, his sixth birdie of the day at the 13th, putting him atop the leaderboard at 15-under. He wouldn't make another birdie, however, needing par saves at the par-three 17th and 18th to make the playoff. Johnson didn't hold back on his playoff putt, sending it racing up the hill. The ball hesitated when it hit the lip, then hit the back edge of the cup and bounced in.

"Yeah, it was going a little fast, but it was a good line," said Johnson, adding he felt the 18th "owed me one" after his second shot in regulation ended up in the underbrush alongside the giant scoreboard behind the green. Lahiri was first in the clubhouse on 15-under, and could have sealed the win at his final hole of regulation, the 18th, where his six-foot eagle



**BOLTON:** Dustin Johnson of United States hits his tee shot on the 16th hole during the final round of the LIV Golf Invitational - Boston at The Oaks golf course on September 04, 2022. — AFP

putt circled the cup but didn't drop. His six-under 64 featured an eagle and six birdies, but after finding the fairway at the first playoff hole, he missed the green with his second shot.

He chipped to five feet for a birdie chance only for Johnson to seal the win. Niemann booked his playoff spot with his fifth birdie of regulation at the 18th. But his tee shot in the playoff hit a spectator before settling in the right rough, and he was in a greenside bunker from there. Johnson, who finished eighth in the inaugural LIV Golf event in London, fourth in Portland and third at Bedminster, became the first American to lift the individual trophy in the series.

He pocketed a \$4 million first prize along with \$750,000 as his share of the team first prize for his 4 Aces outfit, which finished two strokes better than Lahiri's Crushers. The massive purses, along with reported signing bonuses to top players, have the established PGA Tour and DP World Tour scrambling to retain their talent - the PGA Tour promptly banning any player who tees it up in LIV Golf even as they move to create more lucrative events on their own circuit. LIV Golf, backed by the almost unlimited resources of Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth Public Investment Fund has also been accused of "sportswashing" the kingdom's human rights record. — AFP

## Power stretches IndyCar lead as McLaughlin wins

**LOS ANGELES:** Australian Will Power tightened his grip on the IndyCar season title while Penske Racing teammate Scott McLaughlin of New Zealand captured Sunday's Portland Grand Prix with a dominant performance. Pole-sitter McLaughlin captured his third career IndyCar victory after leading 104 of 110 laps on the 12-turn, 1.964-mile road course at Portland (Oregon) International Raceway. "The car felt good in that first stint but as the race went on it got a little bit worse," McLaughlin said. "I just had to concentrate on where the strengths were in the car and try to work with those and the weaknesses, make the best of them."

Power finished second and stretched his season points edge from only three to 523-503 over American Josef Newgarden and New Zealand's Scott Dixon with the 17-race campaign concluding next Sunday at Laguna Seca, where a podium finish would be enough to secure the crown for Power. "That's still very tough," Power said. "We're in the best position. We've got the best shot. We'll do everything we can."

Dixon, chasing a record-tying seventh career season title, was third after having started 16th and jumping from sixth to third after a restart with 22 laps remaining. "We had to drive through the field," Dixon said. "We tried as hard as possible on that last run. We're still in the fight. Anything is possible. We're in it and we'll never give up until it's over." Newgarden finished eighth but has a season-high five race wins for a tie-breaker edge over all rivals.

"We'll go to Laguna and just try to be fast," Newgarden said. "We're going to go and try to win that race and go for broke." Indianapolis 500 winner Marcus Ericsson of Sweden, 39 points back, and McLaughlin, 41 adrift, have longshot title chances.



**INDIANAPOLIS:** Scott McLaughlin, driver of the #3 Gallagher Dallara/Chevrolet, drives during practice for NTT IndyCar Series Gallagher Grand Prix at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. — AFP

"Yeah, we're a longshot but I don't care," McLaughlin said. "We have a shot and I'm looking forward to it." McLaughlin, who also won this year at St. Petersburg and Mid-Ohio, took his seventh podium of the season and fourth in five races to stay in the season championship chase.

"We did exactly what we needed to do this weekend and that was win and get max points, keep ourselves in the fight," McLaughlin said. Power won his only IndyCar season crown in 2014 while Newgarden took titles in 2017 and 2019 and was runner-up the past two years. "I want to win this championship for the guys that have been with me for more than a decade," Power said. "They deserve it for the pain over the years of losing so many."

McLaughlin and front-row neighbor Power stayed 1-2 from the start through the last pit stops. Dutchman Rinus VeeKay knocked American Jimmie Johnson into the outer wall of the main straightaway on lap 84 to bring out the only caution flag and set up a restart with 22 laps remaining. On the restart, Mexico's Pato O'Ward bumped Power and blocked Dixon in the sharp right-hand first turn, race control forcing O'Ward to let Dixon overtake him for third for the violation. — AFP

## Fun factor drives Garcia into maiden US Open quarters

**NEW YORK:** Caroline Garcia swept into the US Open quarter-finals for the first time on Sunday and credited her success to "having fun" which has not always been the case for the powerful Frenchwoman. World number 17 Garcia, who reached her only other Grand Slam last-eight on home ground at Roland Garros five years ago, won through 6-4, 6-1 over Alison Riske-Amritraj.

She now goes on to face American teenager Coco Gauff for a place in the semi-finals. The 28-year-old Garcia is in a rich vein of form, having arrived in New York on the back of a title run in Cincinnati and is on a 12-match win streak. The title in the American midwest was her third of the year after Warsaw and Bad Hamburg.

With six of the top 10 women's seeds already eliminated in New York, Garcia is widely regarded as being amongst the title favorites. Garcia has fired 26 aces so far, has yet to drop a set and has lost serve only twice, winning 33 of 35 service games. "To get wins, definitely helps to be happy, to know which way you have to play, to be healthy, it's a lot of positives," said Garcia. "I like to play tennis aggressive, to move forward. I'm having fun, enjoying playing that way, and on top of it I'm glad it's working and it's a good way for me."

Garcia was thrust into the sport's spotlight in 2011 when as an unknown 17-year-old, and ranked 188, she led Maria Sharapova by a set and 4-1 at the French Open. The occasion eventually proved too much of a burden and Sharapova triumphed. However, British star Andy Murray was so impressed by what he had seen he tweeted his confidence that Garcia would be a future world number one. Murray's bold prediction has yet to materialise with Garcia reaching a career high of four in the world in 2018. — AFP

Sports

# Roma's unbeaten start to Serie A season comes to a sobering end

## Roma slump to surprise thrashing by Udinese

MILAN: Roma's unbeaten start to the Serie A season came to a sobering end as they suffered a 4-0 thrashing at Udinese on Sunday, missing out on the chance to reclaim top spot. Jose Mourinho's side had only conceded one goal in their opening four games of the campaign, but were dismantled at the Stadio Friuli. "I'd prefer to lose one match 4-0 than four matches 1-0, because ultimately we only dropped three points rather than 12," Mourinho told DAZN.

"It's tough for us and the fans to swallow, but this is life. We have another game on Thursday and we go forward." Roma, who ended a 61-year wait for a European trophy by winning last season's Europa Conference League, visit Bulgarian champions Ludogorets Razgrad in their Europa League group-stage opener on Thursday. Teenage wing-back Destiny Udogie, on loan from Tottenham, put Udinese into a fifth-minute lead as he pounced on a Rick Karsdorp error to score for the second time in three games.

The hosts doubled their advantage 11 minutes into the second half as Roma goalkeeper Rui Patricio allowed Lazar Samardzic's long-range strike to bounce into the net. Roberto Pereyra curled a fine shot past Patricio with quarter of an hour remaining to put the game to bed. Sandi Lovric added to Roma's woes in the 82nd minute by finishing off a counter-attack, sending Udinese above their opponents into fourth place. Napoli lead the standings on goal difference from reigning champions AC Milan, who edged out city rivals Inter 3-2 at the San Siro on Saturday. —AFP



Jose Mourinho

## Nigeria and South Africa miss out on CHAN finals

JOHANNESBURG: Nigeria and South Africa will be notable absentees from the African Nations Championship after qualifying for the 2022 finals in Algeria concluded on Sunday. Ghana pipped arch-rivals Nigeria on penalties after a 2-2 aggregate draw, while South Africa slumped to a 4-1 loss at home to Angola, who triumphed 6-1 overall.

Leading nations who will be at the seventh edition of the tournament reserved for home-based stars include Senegal, title-holders Morocco, Cameroon and the Ivory Coast. Trailing 2-0 after the first leg, Nigeria staged a late rally in Abuja to win the return match 2-0 through goals from Zulkifilu Rabiu and Chijioke Akuneto, from an added-time

penalty. Ghana converted all five spot-kicks in the shootout while Maurice Ugochukwu missed to eliminate 2018 runners-up Nigeria.

The dramatic victory took two-time beaten finalists Ghana back to the finals after failing to qualify for the last three editions. Although Nigeria boast one of the stronger national leagues in Africa, they have reached the finals only three times, with their qualifying failures including a stunning 2020 loss to Togo. In Soweto, South Africa got off to a great start with Prince Nxumalo halving the aggregate deficit by nodding home a free-kick just six minutes into the first half.

### Disaster strikes

But disaster struck for the home side on 39 minutes when an attempted headed clearance by Mosa Lebusa looped over goalkeeper Reyaad Pieterse into his own net. It left South Africa needing to score three unanswered goals to survive with a team sorely weakened by the absence of stars on club duty.

Angola grew stronger as the second half progressed with Jaredi Teixeira a constant menace on the left wing. He set up the second and fourth goals for Deivi Viera and Daniel Kilola, and Joaquim Paciencia netted the third with a free-kick that flew in off the underside of the crossbar. Cameroon, fourth when they hosted the 2020 tournament, netted twice late in the opening half to beat Equatorial Guinea 2-0 and squeeze through having lost 1-0 away.

Djawal Kaiba broke the deadlock on 43 minutes in the northwestern city of Garoua and Souaibou Marou snatched what proved the crucial goal in stoppage time. There was an even closer call for the Ivory Coast, who beat Burkina Faso on penalties after both legs finished 0-0. Indian Ocean nation Madagascar will be the only tournament debutants despite being held 1-1 by Botswana in Antananarivo they progressed 2-1 on aggregate. FIFA classify Nations Championship matches as full internationals and the results count toward its world rankings. —AFP

## Mainz end Borussia Gladbach's unbeaten start in Bundesliga

BERLIN: Mainz ended Borussia Moenchengladbach's unbeaten start to the Bundesliga on Sunday as left-back Aaron Martin scored a second-half winner in a 1-0 victory. Gladbach could have gone level on points with third-placed Bayern Munich and Union Berlin with a win at Borussia Park, but were made to pay for Ko Itakura's red card in the 53rd minute.

Spaniard Martin curled the resulting free-kick into the top corner and Mainz held on to move above their opponents into fifth place. Earlier on Sunday, Hertha Berlin won for the first time this season with a 2-0 success at Augsburg as Dodi Lukebakio and Marco Richter found the net. Freiburg lead the early table on goal difference from Borussia Dortmund, after previous pace-setters and reigning champions Bayern were held to a 1-1 draw by Union on Saturday. —AFP



Aaron Martin

## Shock Maritzburg's win knocks Orlando Pirates off the top

JOHANNESBURG: French forward Amadou Soukouna converted a penalty to give Maritzburg United a shock 1-0 South African Premiership win on Sunday over Orlando Pirates, who dropped from first to third. The controversial winner came on 80 minutes with Ghana goalkeeper Richard Ofori getting both hands to the spot-kick without stopping it entering the net. Pirates

were furious after the penalty was awarded, and replays seemed to justify the anger of Nigeria defender Olisa Ndah, who was harshly judged to have pushed Siboniso Conco.

It was only the second win in seven league matches for Maritzburg this season under new coach and former Malawi star John Maduka, and their first victory over Pirates since 2016. Maximum points in front of a capacity 12,000 crowd in the eastern city of Pietemmaritzburg lifted United three places to seventh. Pirates are among the three most successful and popular clubs in South Africa, but have not won the Premiership since 2012, when former Netherlands defender Ruud Krol was the coach.

Spaniard Jose Riveiro is the latest man in charge of the Soweto Buccaneers and a major concern for the 46-year-old must be scoring only four goals in seven league

outings. Giant Cameroonian Bienvenu Eva Nga was signed from fellow Premiership outfit Chippa United during the close season, but has netted just once and made little impact against Maritzburg. With Pirates losing, Durban club Royal AM became the new leaders of the richest national league in Africa with a 15 million rand (\$865,000/870,000 euros) first prize.

Mfundo Thikazi scored in each half to give Royal, in only their second top-flight season, a 2-1 win over struggling Sekhukhune United in northern city Polokwane. Second-last Sekhukhune have taken only one point from their last four matches under Zimbabwean coach Kaitano Tembo, who joined during the close season. Royal have 13 points, fellow Durban club AmaZulu and Pirates 11 and defending champions Mamelodi Sundowns and promoted Richards Bay. —AFP

## Three things we learned from the Premier League

LONDON: Manchester United burst Arsenal's bubble as Antony grabbed a debut goal in his side's win over the Premier League leaders. Jurgen Klopp admits injury-hit Liverpool are not in sync yet, while VAR was widely panned after a rash of controversial decisions. AFP Sport looks at three things we learned from the Premier League this weekend:

### Antony adds new dimension

Antony's Manchester United debut was only eight minutes old when the Brazilian introduced himself to Old Trafford in flamboyant fashion. Backed up against the touchline by two Arsenal defenders and with seemingly nowhere to turn, Antony left his markers bewildered with a sublime backheel that picked out Diogo Dalot. Dalot's cross almost brought a goal for Christian Eriksen and Antony's approval rating was already rising among the captivated crowd.

The 22-year-old was just getting started as he unfurled an array of tricks and flicks before marking his debut with a composed finish to put United ahead in the 35th minute. Signed from Ajax for £82 million (\$94 million) on Thursday, Antony already looks to the manor born. It was Marcus Rashford's second half brace that proved Arsenal's downfall as the leaders were beaten for the first time this season, giving resurgent United a fourth successive victory. But Antony was the player who United's jubilant fans left talking about.

### Klopp frustrated

Liverpool's latest failure to take maximum points left Jurgen Klopp a picture of frustration after Saturday's goalless Merseyside derby at Everton. Klopp's side have dropped nine points from their first six games after Everton keeper Jordan Pickford produced a series of fine saves to keep the visitors at bay. Liverpool's stuttering start has been fuelled by a fatal combination of midfield injuries and growing pains for an attack still getting used to life without Sadio Mane. Jordan Henderson, Thiago Alcantara, and Naby Keita were among seven players unavailable for the derby and Liverpool's midfield lacked cohesion as a result.

Although Liverpool scored nine against Bournemouth last month, their front three have rarely fired on all cylinders in the other games. That was the case against Everton as some poor finishing from new signing Darwin Nunez-landed from Benfica to replace Mane after his move to Bayern Munich-proved especially costly for the Reds. "We have to get through this period, how it is, because, yes, players are coming back but they have to be reintegrated. We cannot just bring them back to play 90 minutes or whatever," Klopp said. "I know that Darwin will score in these moments in the future, that is clear."

### VAR under fire

The Video Assistant Referee system was back into the spotlight after a series of debatable decisions across the weekend. Much-maligned ever since its introduction in the 2019-20 season, VAR is once again in the dock, accused of ruining matches and robbing teams with its constant nit-picking.

There was a fresh blow for VAR's dwindling number of advocates on Sunday when referees' body PGMOL effectively admitted the decisions to disallow goals at Chelsea and Newcastle on Saturday were wrong and promised to "fully cooperate" with a Premier League review of the incidents. The Professional Game Match Officials' Board took the rare step of "acknowledging" the specific controversies in a statement on Sunday, and accepted the Premier League's request for an additional investigation.

West Ham were denied a late equaliser in their 2-1 defeat against Chelsea when Maxwell Cornet's effort was ruled out for Jarrod Bowen's soft challenge on Blues keeper Edouard Mendy seconds earlier. Hammers boss David Moyes branded VAR official Jarrod Gillett unfit for duty after confronting referee Andy Madley following the "ridiculously bad decision". Newcastle had to settle for a 0-0 draw with Crystal Palace after a Tyrick Mitchell own goal was controversially disallowed. —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

I Murtuza holder of Indian Passport number M1041934 issued in Kuwait on 18th September 2014 have changed my given name from "

Murtuza " to "Murtuza Shabir Kadarbhai" with Surname : Dudhwala. My full name now should read as "Murtuza Shabir Kadarbhai Dudhwala (C# 2403) - 06-09-2022

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

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## Villarreal demolish Elche to extend strong La Liga start

Valencia hammer Getafe 5-1, Athletic Bilbao's unbeaten run ends



VALENCIA: Villarreal's Spanish forward Jose Luis Morales (right) scores a goal past Elche's Spanish goalkeeper Edgar Badia during the Spanish league football match on September 4, 2022. — AFP

**MADRID:** Villarreal thrashed struggling Elche 4-0 in La Liga on Sunday to keep their unbeaten start intact and stay within two points of leaders Real Madrid. Gerard Moreno and Giovanni Lo Celso scored in the first half before Francis Coquelin and Jose Luis Morales struck in the closing minutes.

Unai Emery's side are the only team yet to concede a goal in the Spanish top flight and sit level on 10 points with Barcelona. Athletic Bilbao's unbeaten

run ended with a 1-0 home loss to Espanyol as Martin Braithwaite scored on his debut days after his contract with Barcelona was terminated. Valencia hammered Getafe 5-1 with Gennaro Gattuso's team bouncing back from consecutive one-goal losses. Osasuna won for the third time in four games courtesy of Ruben Garcia's late goal in a 2-1 victory over Rayo Vallecano.

Meanwhile, 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. — AFP

## Pakistan edge India in Asia Cup thriller

**DUBAI:** A key partnership between Mohammad Rizwan and Mohammad Nawaz set up a thrilling five-wicket win for Pakistan in their opening Super Four game against India in the Asia Cup on Sunday. Chasing 182 for victory, Pakistan achieved their target with one ball to spare in Dubai after Rizwan hit 71 and the left-handed Nawaz, who was promoted to number four, made 42.

Rizwan was out after his second successive half-century in the 17th over but Khushdil Shah, with his unbeaten 14, and Asif Ali, who made 16 off eight balls, made sure Pakistan got over the line in a tense final over bowled by Arshdeep Singh. Reprieved after Arshdeep dropped an easy catch at short third man, Asif hit a six and two fours before falling with two balls left, leaving Iftikhar Ahmed to score the remaining two runs.

"There was positive pressure," said Nawaz, who also returned bowling figures of 1-25 with his left-arm spin. "I felt I have to play well for my team and that time it was 10 runs per over and I knew I can do this, I just had to focus on my batting and execute the skills." It was the second meeting in the tournament between the arch-rivals, who only play each other in multi-nation events due to political tensions, after India's group-stage win.

Earlier, Virat Kohli's 60 guided India to 181-7 after being put in to bat. Pakistan started their chase cautiously and lost skipper Babar Azam for 14 with leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi luring the batsman into a chip straight to mid-wicket. The in-form Rizwan, who made 43 and 78 in the previous two matches, hit back with three boundaries off pace bowler Hardik Pandya and a six in the next over.

He put on 41 with Fakhar Zaman who played a scratchy knock of 15 before falling to Yuzvendra Chahal's leg-spin. Pakistan promoted the left-handed Nawaz, primarily a spinner, to up the scoring and he delivered by promptly hitting a four and six. "To play such an innings in a high-pressure game has given me confidence and made me grow as a player," said Nawaz. "I will try to live up to the expectations which will rise (after this innings) and perform like a proper all-rounder."

Rizwan, who hurt himself keeping wicket after land-



DUBAI: Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan plays a shot during the Asia Cup Twenty20 international cricket Super Four match between India and Pakistan on September 4, 2022. — AFP

ing awkwardly on his right leg but was able to continue, anchored the innings and reached fifty in 37 balls. Nawaz smashed five fours and two sixes in his 20-ball blitz and stood firm with Rizwan before getting out to Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

Pandya removed Rizwan as India sensed a turnaround but the left-handed Khushdil and Asif completed the chase as Pakistan avenged their loss to India last weekend. Star batsman Kohli, who hit 60 off 44 balls before being run out in the final over, helped India survive a middle-order stutter to post a competitive total. He reached his 32nd T20 international half-century in 36 balls with a six off pace bowler Mohammad Hसनain amid chants of "Kohli, Kohli" at a packed stadium.

Kohli, who has slowly come out of his lean patch with scores of 35 and 59 in the previous two matches, held the innings together despite a middle-order stutter and stood strong before being run out in the final over. "The form is brilliant," skipper Rohit Sharma said of Kohli. "Needed someone to bat long when the others were getting out. He batted with that tempo as well. Virat getting that score was crucial from the team's point of view." Leg-spinner Shadab Khan stood out for Pakistan with figures of 2-31 from his four overs. — AFP

## 10-man Lens grab a late equalizer to remain unbeaten

**PARIS:** Belgium international Lois Openda scored a late equalizer as 10-man Lens drew 1-1 at Reims on Sunday to remain unbeaten in Ligue 1 this season. Arsenal loanee Folarin Balogun struck his fifth goal in six games to put Reims ahead shortly after Deiver Machado's red card midway through the second half.

Openda netted for the fourth match running to earn Franck Haise's side a point, although they dropped two behind Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille at the top. "We can be satisfied we didn't accept defeat with 10 men, because that's now 14 matches without losing going back to last season," said Haise. "That means we have a lot of character." Monaco defeated struggling Cote d'Azur rivals Nice 1-0 as Brel Embolo headed in the only goal in the second half.

Nice have won just once in six matches under Lucien Favre this term after challenging for a Champions League place last season with Christophe Galtier. Jonathan David bagged a brace as Lille won 3-1 at Montpellier, who played the second half a man down after Valere Germain's dismissal. Elye Wahi opened the scoring for Montpellier, with David on target either side of a goal from former Manchester United youngster Angel Gomes. Troyes clung on for a 1-1 draw at home to Rennes despite playing over an hour with 10 men.

Ike Ugbo struck first before Baptiste Santamaria levelled for Rennes. Burkina Faso forward Dango Ouattara hit the winner in Lorient's 1-0 victory at bottom side Ajaccio. Clermont beat Toulouse 2-0 while Strasbourg are still searching for their first win this term following a 1-1 draw away to Brest. Kylian Mbappe scored a goal in each half as PSG beat Nantes 3-0 on Saturday to stay at the summit. Marseille, who had briefly taken over first after beating Auxerre 2-0 with Alexis Sanchez on target, are second on goal difference. — AFP

### French Ligue 1 table

French Ligue 1 table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Paris SG	6	5	1	0	24	4	16
Marseille	6	5	1	0	13	3	16
Lens	6	4	2	0	15	7	14
Lyon	5	4	1	0	14	4	13
Lille	6	3	1	2	13	13	10
Lorient	5	3	1	1	8	8	10
Montpellier	6	3	0	3	16	12	9
Clermont	6	3	0	3	8	10	9
Rennes	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
Monaco	6	2	2	2	8	11	8
Troyes	6	2	1	3	11	14	7
Auxerre	6	2	1	3	7	11	7
Nantes	6	1	3	2	6	8	6
Reims	6	1	3	2	10	13	6
Toulouse	6	1	2	3	7	11	5
Nice	6	1	2	3	4	8	5
Brest	6	1	2	3	8	16	5
Strasbourg	6	0	4	2	5	7	4
Angers	6	0	2	4	6	17	2
Ajaccio	6	0	1	5	3	10	1



REIMS: Reims' English forward Folarin Balogun (center) is tackled during the French L1 football match between Stade de Reims and RC Lens on September 4, 2022. — AFP