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Charles III proclaimed new king at historic ceremony

Amir sends congratulations • New monarch vows to follow 'inspiring' queen



LONDON: Prince William, Prince of Wales and Camilla, Queen Consort listen as King Charles III speaks during a meeting of the Accession Council in the Throne Room inside St James' Palace on Sept 10, 2022. —AFP

LONDON: With a trumpet fanfare and gun salutes, Charles III was officially proclaimed king at a pomp-filled ceremony on Saturday, at which he pledged to emulate his late mother Queen Elizabeth II and serve for the rest of his life. A court official wearing a feathered bicorn hat declared Charles "our only lawful and rightful" monarch from the balcony of St James' Palace after a historic Accession Council meeting of senior royals, clergy and government.

The centuries-old tradition of the council was televised live for the first time as it officially announced the 73-year-old Charles as monarch after seven decades as heir apparent. "I am deeply aware of this great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of sovereignty, which have now passed to me," Charles said in a speech before swearing an oath. "In taking up these responsibilities, I shall strive to follow the inspiring example I have been set."

Eight trumpeters accompanied the proclamation that was followed by a rousing three cheers for the new king by red-jacketed Coldstream Guards soldiers, doffing their distinctive bearskin hats. Ceremonial gun salutes boomed simultaneously across the

United Kingdom and the proclamation - a relic from the past where the new monarch needed to be announced to their subjects - was also read publicly in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday addressed a cable to King Charles III, expressing deep congratulations on his crowning as monarch. HH the Amir wished King Charles III all success in pursuing the process of development witnessed in the friendly United Kingdom, hoping his leadership will further bolster the UK's eminent status and guide the nation to pursue its leading role at the international level, noting that the bases of this process had been laid by the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Moreover, HH the Amir expressed profound pride in the deep-rooted, solid and historical relations bonding the two gracious families, friendly people within the framework of mutual understanding and cooperation, joint keenness on elevating these ties and broadening cooperation in various spheres in a fashion that would bolster the strategic partnership between the two friendly countries.

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Regulation for electric vehicle chargers ready

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works and Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Ali Al-Mousa announced Saturday the completion of preparing a regulation for electric car chargers in Kuwait. In a statement to KUNA, Mousa said the regulation aims to provide electric car chargers to customers, indicating it sets a mechanism to increase locations of charging points in different areas in Kuwait, while considering the technical conditions and Kuwait's climate.



Ali Al-Mousa

The proposed sites for installing electric chargers include government buildings as well as commercial buildings and other places, explained Mousa. He considered the electric car market in Kuwait "in a stage of great development and that there are many customers who have switched to electric cars". "Preparing this regulation will encourage many foreign electric car producing companies to enter the Kuwaiti market, which is one of MEW's goals," the minister added.

Mousa indicated that the global shift towards electric cars aims to use clean energy in transportation to reduce pollution, which happens to be in line with Kuwait 2035 vision, by achieving a sustainable, less-polluted living environment. — KUNA

Candidates tackle corruption, jobs, expats, housing

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Candidates contesting for parliamentary seats in the Sept 29 snap polls have warned that corruption is destroying the country, claiming it accounts for as much as 35 percent of Kuwait's mammoth

budget of KD 24 billion. They also called for fundamental and lasting solutions to chronic problems of housing, population and unemployment, which are threatening to become the biggest headache for hundreds of thousands of fresh graduates.

New candidate Moath Al-Duwailah, contesting the polls from the fourth constituency, alleged corruption has eaten up more than 35 percent of the country's budget, amounting to around KD 8 billion annually. He said public funds lost a total of over \$2.3 billion from three major corruption cases. He said the wide-scale corruption comes amid complacency by officials to adopt measures to curb corruption in state funds.

Duwailah, who is running on the ticket of the

Pentagon combines sea drones, AI to police Gulf region

WASHINGTON: Iran's recent seizure of unmanned US Navy boats shined a light on a pioneering Pentagon program to develop networks of

air, surface and underwater drones for patrolling large regions, meshing their surveillance with artificial intelligence. The year-old program operates numerous unmanned surface vessels, or USVs, in the waters around the Arabian peninsula, gathering data and images to be beamed back to collection centers in the Gulf.

The program operated without incident until Iranian forces tried to grab three seven-meter SAILDRONE Explorer USVs in two incidents, on Aug 29-30 and Sept 1. In the first, a ship of Iran's Islamic

Pakistan floods 'climate carnage' shocks UN chief

KARACHI: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Saturday that he has "never seen climate carnage" on such a scale as he toured parts of Pakistan hit by floods, blaming wealthier countries for the devastation. Nearly 1,400 people have died in flooding that covers an area the size of the United Kingdom and

has wiped out crops and destroyed homes, businesses, roads and bridges.

Guterres has said he hopes his visit will galvanize support for Pakistan, which has put the provisional cost of the catastrophe at more than \$30 billion, according to the government's flood relief center. "I have seen many humanitarian disasters in the world, but I have never seen climate carnage on this scale," he said at a press conference in the port city of Karachi after witnessing the worst of the damage in southern Pakistan. "I have simply no words to describe what I have seen today."

Continued on Page 6

Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM), the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, said the solution to face such massive corruption is by activating supervisory bodies like the Audit Bureau and others and to more actively send files of corruption cases to court. He also called for opening the "file of political reforms".

Former MP Abdullah Al-Kandari, running independently from the third constituency, said there can be no serious talk about real political reforms and a new direction if they are not accompanied by serious and effective measures "to hold to account thieves of public funds".

Continued on Page 6

Revolutionary Guard Corps hooked a line to a SAILDRONE in the Gulf and began towing it away, only releasing it when a US Navy Patrol boat and helicopter sped to the scene.

In the second, an Iranian destroyer picked up two SAILDRONES in the Red Sea, hoisting them aboard. Two US Navy destroyers and helicopters quickly descended, and persuaded the Iranians to give them up the next day, but only after stripping cameras from them, according to the US military.

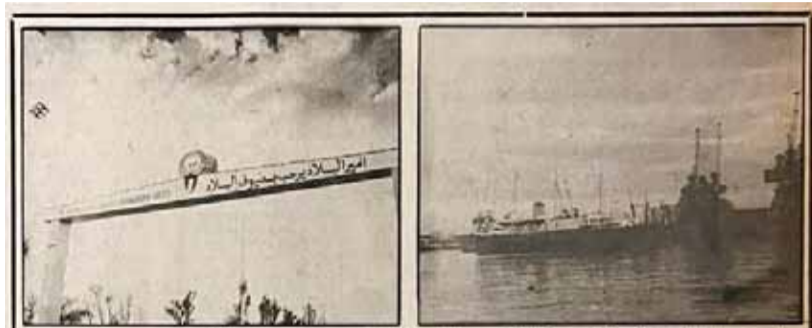
Continued on Page 6



USTA MUHAMMAD, Pakistan: Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, flanked by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, holds a child of an internally displaced woman at a makeshift camp. — AFP

Kuwait Times remembers Queen's state visit to Kuwait in 1979

KUWAIT: On Feb 12, 1979, Queen Elizabeth II and her spouse Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, arrived in Kuwait on a three-day visit on an official invitation by Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The visit focused on ways to bolster ties. The Queen also visited various landmarks in the country. Clippings from Kuwait Times provide a snapshot of the royal visit.



Welcome arches (like the one shown at left), and flags of Britain and Kuwait are to be seen all over Kuwait as it awaits the British Royal Couple's arrival tomorrow. At right, the Royal yacht Britannia, which is berthed at the Shuwaik port. (Pictures by Abdul Hamid)

Concorde flight to start Gulf tour BRITISH ROYAL COUPLE ARRIVES TOMORROW ON HISTORIC VISIT

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip are due to arrive at Kuwait International Airport by the Anglo-French supersonic Concorde tomorrow afternoon to start their historic visit to Kuwait and, later, Gulf countries aboard the royal yacht Britannia.

The British sovereign, who is also Queen of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and several Dependencies, will receive a 21-gun royal salute as she steps ashore for the first time on Kuwait soil.

The Concorde flight, expected to take about 2 1/2 hours, will be piloted by Captain Peter Beesley. The Concorde is due to complete the journey at about 4 pm Kuwait time.

His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, will personally greet Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who will be accompanied by the British Ambassador to Kuwait, Mr. John Cambridge GMB.

WELCOME

There will be a guard of honour from Kuwait's National Guard and a host of dignitaries will be present to pay their respects to the royal couple. They will include His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al-Ahmad Sabah, Adviser to the Amir, and other top government officials as well as members of the Diplomatic Corps.

The royal motorcade from the airport to the royal yacht Britannia, now berthed in the Shuwaik commercial port, will arrive about 5 pm and 15 minutes later, the Queen and Prince Philip leave the yacht for the Al-Salem Palace where the Amir will be host at a royal banquet.

At 8.30 pm, the royal couple will meet Press representatives aboard Britannia.

On Tuesday the Queen and the Duke will visit the Amir at the Sulf Palace at 10 am, and from there will visit the Kuwait Oil Company gas project in Ahmedi.

There will be a special lunch at the British Embassy and afterwards — at 3 pm — the royal couple will visit the Kuwait Towers and watch a popular artistic programme. They return to Britannia at 4.45 pm.

In the evening there will be a dinner party in honour of the Amir and top government officials aboard the royal yacht.

This will be followed by a reception given by the Queen and the Duke.

On Wednesday morning, the Queen and the Duke will visit the grounds of the British Embassy to meet members of the British community, particularly schoolchildren who will wave British and Kuwait flags in honour of the occasion.



IRAN TAKES

NEW CHIEF

The military situation in the provinces was not clear, with only sporadic reports reaching Tehran. But the national radio did not mention any substantial resistance by pro-Shah forces.

Prakashmani militiamen appeared to have taken the Tehran rising as a signal to fight local army garrisons for control of provincial towns, but fighting in the rest of the country appeared to have been less organized and on a smaller scale than in Tehran.

The "Voice of the Revolution" national radio reported that army garrisons in towns west of Tehran, west over to the Ayatollah's side today as Qavam, Maragheh, Zanjan and Sarab. Posts of the 78,000-strong para military command were also reported by the radio to have surrendered.

"We will respect Iranian choice": Kuwait says

By A Staff Reporter

KUWAIT, Feb. 12 — The Kuwait Government today issued a statement on the Iranian developments, saying that they were an internal affair of Iran and only the Iranian people were competent to decide their country's fate.

The statement came after the weekly ordinary Cabinet meeting. It was relayed to the reporters by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Abdul Aziz Hussain.

He emphasized that the Kuwait Government will recognize the choice of the Iranian People and respect the form of Government opted for by them.

Hussain's brief remarks were apparently aimed at reversing the former Kuwait policy of supporting the Shah regime and hoping that the Iranian people would be able to progress under the Shah's leadership.

It is interesting to note that Hussain's remarks, in effect amount to Kuwait recognition of the new Government and that no fresh recognition of it would thus be necessary. Kuwait hoped that the new Government would honour all commitments and agreements concluded by the former regime.

(See Editorial: Page 3)



Her Majesty the Queen seen here with His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister at the airport VIP lounge yesterday. (More pictures on Page 7) (Picture by Abdul Hamid)

From Snowstorm to "Summer" WARM KUWAITI WELCOME FOR THE QUEEN

By Ralph Shaw
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip



Touchdown. And the blue skies and warm breezes of Kuwait greet the Queen and Prince Philip — a pleasant contrast to the freezing weather they left behind in Britain just four hours before.

At precisely five past four local time, yesterday, the deep-throated roar of Concorde's mighty engines heralded the arrival of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth to Kuwait.

Concorde, the fastest and only supersonic airliner in the world, arrived bang on cue after only four hours flying time from the United Kingdom. After a brief moment, Her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Philip, alighted from the aircraft, resplendent in a sparkling salmon pink check dress and eye-catching pill box hat.

She was warmly greeted by the Amir and guided to the prepared rostrum where the respective national anthems were played.

Her Majesty was obviously delighted by a magnificent bouquet of flowers and profuse honours bestowed on the arrival of the Queen and Prince Philip.

The Emir proceeded to present the members of his Government and later guided the Queen to the VIP lounge where photographers from several nations captured the moments of genuine warmth and affection which the United Kingdom and Kuwait have enjoyed for many years.

Later, followed by an enormous procession of cars, the Queen retired to the Royal Yacht for the banquet held in her honour at the Sulf Palace.

INVITATION

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New goods will be displayed for the first time at the Exhibition.

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At Shuwaik port shortly before her departure, His Highness the Amir is seen escorting the Queen as she bids farewell to Kuwaiti Cabinet Ministers. The Queen shakes hands with members of the Diplomatic Corps, who had gathered to bid her farewell.



Earlier, the Queen and the Amir exchanged gifts to commemorate her visit to Kuwait



A British car, a black Rolls Royce, takes the Queen to the royal yacht Britannia moored at Shuwaik Harbour



The two rows of pictures above show the tight security measures for the Queen at the airport yesterday; Her Majesty meeting the Kuwait Cabinet Ministers; the Monarch waving to the welcoming crowds from the Amiri Rolls-Royce; large numbers of Kuwaiti, British and Commonwealth citizens who came to the airport to greet her; and the British journalists and cameramen who are in Kuwait to cover the Royal visit for their publications and/or stations.

Attention

Wolf Electric Tools

Local

Pollution in Kuwait, a worrying health threat

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: A recent report indicated that Kuwait City ranked eighth globally and first in the Arab world, in the list of the most polluted cities, according to the American Air Quality Index (AQI), published by the Swiss company IQ Air, which measured the presence of five major pollutants - ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.

The report showed that multiple reasons come together to contribute in Kuwait's air pollution, with the oil industry being the main contributor - leading to the burning of fossil fuels and industrial practices such as extraction, drilling and fracking, storing and exporting, all causing pollution in the country, in addition to the subsequent fallout from these oil fires which causes damage to the upper ozone layer and leads to climate change, creating more pollution related issues down the line.

The report also details that, with relatively high readings of pollution throughout the year, it is expected to create negative health consequences. Some adverse health effects that may arise as a result may be rapid aging or scarring of the lungs, with large amounts of chemical compounds as well as fine particles in the air; the increased presence of nitrogen dioxide which can cause irritation and damage to lung tissue and the presence of black carbon, which can cause scarring and reduced lung capacity as well as other problems, if it passes into the bloodstream.

It mentioned that the effects of pollution are felt not only in the diminished capacity and proper functioning of the lungs, but sufferers also become more susceptible to other respiratory problems such as pneumonia, bronchitis and emphysema as well as exacerbated forms of asthma, with other problems outside the respiratory system such as heart disease as well as arrhythmia, which makes people with pre-existing heart disease

more likely to die prematurely.

In expectant mothers, the report added that if pregnant women are exposed to large amounts of pollution over long periods of time, there would be a significant rise in infant mortality rates and the chances of miscarriage will increase, along with cases of children born prematurely with low birth weight, in addition to the possibility of cognitive and physical defects.

Meanwhile, the Environment Public Authority of Kuwait (EPA) have announced that this report and its classifications of air quality standards in Kuwait have no basis in the country and have argued that the US air quality standards differ from the air quality standards in Kuwait, with each country having its own standards based on its national conditions.

On the other hand, the Green Line Environmental Group of Kuwait replied to the Environment Authority statement that the pollutants in the air are due to dust, in a report issued by Green Line Research



KUWAIT: Cars are seen during a heavy dust storm in this June 2022 file photo.

and Studies Unit, explaining that the Kuwaiti society is exposed to pollutants such as fine particles of 2.5 PM, which can be dangerous and lead to the spread of diseases and cause death.

The Green Line report also stated that the effect of such dust particles depends on the concentration in the atmosphere

and the duration of exposure. If the exposure period is short, it may cause health damages such as itching and redness of the eyes and skin, coughing and shortness of breath. But if exposed for a longer period of time, it may have serious effects such as cancer, chronic lung diseases, heart and blood diseases.

Despite pandemic impact, teachers and students remain hopeful

By Sabreen Nasser

KUWAIT: Educators continue to report lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, a year after the government announced the end of online schooling. Classes were suspended in Kuwait for more than 18 months due to COVID-induced lockdowns and the prolonged disruption to education is still showing its effects. Several educators, parents and students told Kuwait Times that some students continue to find the transition back to in-person classes challenging.

Christiane Maalouf, a counselor at a bilingual academy, has observed a loss of social and developmental skills, as well as slowed academic growth among students after the end of online schooling. "Students lost a lot of learning and skills that they should have, let alone their emotional development. They are not where they should be," she told Kuwait Times. "My middle-schoolers do not behave like middle-schoolers. They behave like 4th grade children at the emotional level because they lost two years," she said. Many students are also struggling with their mental health, with increased reports of anxiety, depression, social isolation and irrational fears.

The school developed an academic intervention program for students, which led to significant improvements. They also provided counseling and organized activities that supported students' mental

health. However, Maalouf anticipates that teachers and educators will continue to see students affected by the pandemic in different ways. "We expect an improvement, but we also expect there will still be some fallout from the pandemic," she said. "For example, today, the first day of school, I have kids who are refusing to remove their masks. They still have this fear." She predicts things will take a few years to return to normal at schools.

Speaking to Kuwait Times, concerned parent Suzan Hasan commented on the challenges faced by her two young children. "Offline is completely different from online classes. Online affects us and our kids very much," she said, adding that her children's functional skills, like writing, and their social skills have been affected. Hasan decided to change her children's school this year in the hopes of providing them with a better learning environment.

The effects of the pandemic school closures are more obvious in younger children. However, high-school students have not gone unscathed either. Laila and Yasmin said that they found the transition back to normal classes last year difficult as well. "It was hard because we've been online for two years. It was very stressful and hard to focus," said Laila. "It felt like we were in a completely new environment," added Yasmin. The girls, who are going into grade 9 this year, confessed to feeling nervous about the upcoming school year. "Even after one year, it's still difficult."

Rayan Kamel, an educator with over 19 years of experience, notes that the ease of the transition varied from school to school. The private school she teaches at did not opt for hybrid classes last year. Instead, in order to comply with government regulations, they reduced all class sizes so that their students could attend class in person every day. The school had also already adopted online learning tools before the pandemic struck. This mitigated the effect of the pandemic on her high-school students,

allowing them to adapt to the changing situations more easily. "The transition wasn't hard, because students were excited to come back." Even so, Kamel has observed a change in her high school classroom. "Students were quiet the first three months after coming back - they were not as active as before," she told Kuwait Times. She added that the scores in their first midyear exams were also lower on an average.

Farhan Hashmi, principal of a private American school in Salmiya, said his teachers and students witnessed many positive effects from online schooling. "As with any change, there are some positives and some negatives," he told Kuwait Times. "One of the positives that came out of it is that most of our students have become proficient in online learning tools," he pointed out. The school's curriculum was also modified post-pandemic based on the needs of students. "Sometimes, having a change in your normal setting allows you to see things from a different perspective. We are hopeful that what we are doing post-pandemic will be very applicable in the new reality."

Despite all the challenges of the last two years, most teachers and students are excited for the upcoming academic year. Dina Eidan, a kindergarten supervisor at a local American school, is optimistic about her young students. "I feel that in the early kindergarten years, children are resilient. They might not understand at first, but they bounce back," she said. At her school, the influence of online schooling was more apparent in middle- and high-schoolers than younger children. "When we came back last year, there were a lot of children feeling depressed and isolated. So we had a lot of counseling going on in school," she said. However, this year, things have taken a turn for the better. "When I watched middle- and high-schoolers come in today, they came in with lots of positive energy, and each one had a smile on their faces," she told Kuwait Times.

Health Minister meets medical training officials

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Khalid Al-Saeed, met representatives of training programs at Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS), to discuss several administrative issues including the difficulties faced by staff in hospitals and specialized centers in the country. Dr Al-Saeed said, "Training programs are the pillars of health care and this meeting is held to listen to the issues you face and to propose solutions," adding that "the ministry would study them and work towards improving the health service in the country." The minister also said that it was important to have national competencies in the emergency medical wings, with equal attention being paid for the general wards as well. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Dr Khalid Al-Saeed addresses the concerns raised by the KIMS representatives. — KUNA

Sheikha Intisar awarded Legion of Honor

NICE: The mayor of the French city of Nice, Christian Estrosi, honored Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, with the Legion of Honor, in the 'Knight' rank, in appreciation of her support for Arab women and war victims and for serving the Kuwaiti community through her humanitarian organization, Intisar Foundation. The award was given by the French authorities for her role in serving the youth in Kuwait, through the 'Al Nuwair Initiative' and the 'Al-Bareeq program', and for her reformational initiatives in the educational sector in the country.

"I am honored that my decades-long work as an entrepreneur, philanthropist, author, film producer and columnist in the fields of education, women's self-empowerment, positivity and peacebuilding has been recognized by France," said Sheikha Intisar, emphasizing that the award would give her the motivation to continue her work in community service.

At a separate Global Diwan event held in Nice,



NICE: Sheikha Intisar with officials at the Global Diwan summit. — KUNA

Sheikha Intisar called upon the international community to aid women traumatized by war and violence. The event, which convened for the first time in the French city, aims to create more sustainable economic and human development initiatives to cope with global issues, namely environmental and food security challenges.

Sheikha Intisar said that she founded Intisar Foundation to help other women in Kuwait and across the Arab world, adding that Arab women had

a key role to play in establishing global peace. Speaking on the sidelines of the event, she said that she felt responsible to help Arab women who were impacted by war and violence, noting that she has had first-hand experience of war during the Gulf war in 1990, when Iraq attacked Kuwait. The National Order of the Legion of Honor is France's highest order of merit, awarded to deserving people in France and across the world, for their outstanding contributions in different sectors. — KUNA

local spotlight

Understanding women's empowerment



By Atyab Al-Shatti

local@kuwaittimes.com

It has been noticed that many male candidates are mentioning women's empowerment and women in political and decision making roles in their campaigns, which is a first, since the previous parliament and the one before that, did not directly tackle women's empowerment and might have only engaged in women's rights issues, with regards to enabling women to attain some ungiven rights such as health custody, equality in job opportunities, and becoming board members of cooperatives and NGOs in Kuwait. Slight approval was never a true support for gender equality and women's empowerment.

But today we see candidate Khalid Al-Shatti tackling women's empowerment for the first time, saying: "Constitutionally, women are granted equal rights as men, and such gender equality should be expressed through the laws. The legislative system should adopt the constitutional principles of equality, rights and dignity for everyone." I personally know from my research that several constitutional articles were established to secure positions for men, and I would say his statement is general and needs more accuracy.

On the other hand, candidate Jasim Al-Juraied prioritized gender equality and giving women the opportunity to participate in the community equally as men, giving accurate examples with regards to the laws and resolutions that discriminate against women, such as the housing law, women passing their nationality to their children, equal job opportunities and allowances from the government.

A courageous stance was taken by a female candidate to run for elections, neglecting byelections executed in a very patriarchal community, as it is well known that any tribe member will run in byelections. The byelections of tribes are always exclusively for men, and no woman is ever involved. This is why the chances of tribal women to win in byelections are zero. It is not usual for the Kuwaiti community to see a woman of a tribe going against byelections.

What is surprising is that such a courageous step was taken by a woman, but instead of being supportive, some women claimed that the reason her calls and videos went viral is because she is wearing a tribal cultural dress with her face covered, while others claimed she is only trained to say things instead of believing in her statements.

It is still early to judge, but I believe that any candidate should be evaluated according to their priorities and agendas regardless of their gender. This is why I believe she needs to get the chance to speak out and be heard, and for the people to know her goals and what she is willing to achieve if she reaches the parliament.

Unfortunately, the last female parliamentarian neither served human rights nor the nation's rights, nor furnished support for women or even tackled women's empowerment efficiently. It is very disappointing to mention the huge international uproar that has occurred due to the discriminatory statements issued by her. I strongly believe that at this stage, it is crucial for male candidates to understand the concept of women's empowerment, so they can advocate for it.

Local

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News in brief

PAI participation in MIHAS projects positive contribution

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwait's Public Authority for Industry (PAI), highlighted Kuwait's participation in the Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS), as a positive step towards promoting the country's industrial sector. Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Hammad al-Zoghbi, Head of promotion and exporting opportunities at PAI said, "Kuwait's participation at this showcase, is aimed at encouraging industrial exports, regionally and internationally. The showcase also provided opportunities for Kuwait's factories, to benefit from the initiatives carried out by halal manufacturing companies globally." He said that the participating countries from Kuwait, were able to market their products and also sign off several deals with Malaysian firms as well as with other companies from participating countries. Meanwhile, the Charge D'affair of Kuwait Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Mudhahi Al-Fadhli, said that, PAI's pavilion was one of the largest pavilions at the Showcase, adding that "MIHAS is a regional and international event which has been hosted by Kuala Lumpur for 18 years and reflects the country's commitment in developing the global halal industry." Malaysia currently has 295 specialized companies in this field. MIHAS is being held between 7-10 September and features seven Kuwaiti companies, in addition to others from 40 participating countries —KUNA.

KRCS launches campaign for people in affected countries

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched a donation campaign for those affected by the floods, torrents and droughts in Somalia, Sudan and Pakistan, through its website and its affiliated departments in the Avenues Mall. "The campaign was launched due to the current difficult circumstances that the people of these countries have been suffering from and their dire need for basic supplies especially medicine, shelter and drinking water," said Maha Al-Barjas, KRCS General Secretary. She added that the campaign aims to alleviate the suffering of the affected people and is a reflection of the extent of Kuwait's humanitarian initiatives carried out, on national and international levels. — KUNA

Kuwait's ambassador to Japan presents credentials

TOKYO: Ambassador Sami Al-Zamanan presented his credentials to Takeo Mori, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. During the meeting, both sides exchanged ways to develop relations of partnership and friendship between the Kuwait and Japan. Ambassador Al-Zamanan said that both countries hoped to work together to strengthen ties and develop bilateral relations. — KUNA

Al-Mansour submits credentials to Benin's FM

BENIN: Mishal Al-Mansour submitted his credentials to Benin's Foreign Minister Aurelien Agbenonci, as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Kuwait. During the reception, Al-Mansour also conveyed the greetings of the Foreign Minister, Dr Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, stressing on Kuwait's keenness to boost ties with Benin to serve mutual interests at all levels. On his part, Agbenonci lauded his country's good relations with Kuwait and appreciated its pioneering role in several domains and industries. — KUNA



BENIN: Mishal Al-Mansour submits credentials to Benin's Foreign Minister Aurelien Agbenonci. — KUNA

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwait Towers displays UK's flag to show respect for the Queen's demise. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Opposition to focus campaign on key national issues

KUWAIT: Kuwait parliament's opposition has critically highlighted that the current campaigning being carried out by candidates for the upcoming elections do not focus on issues that need to be addressed such as the reformation of the state administration, corruption within the government mechanism and other challenges that is of significance for the country's development, informed sources said.

Campaigning topics instead focus on other issues that are popular among the people such as the education sector, economy and the population structure of Kuwait. Sources said that the government had previously delayed the decision to increase the service fees on residents, review

health ministry fees and differentiate between services for residents and citizens.

Parliamentary sources also added that the government denied opposition candidates, the opportunity to speak about demands to reform the electoral process. A highlight of this decision, as outlined by sources, has been the approval of voting by the civil ID, which prevents opposition candidates from raising the issues of votes transfer or any other activities done to compromise the integrity of the elections.

Sources also added that the government's decision to abstain from participating in the election of the speaker, his deputy, secretary, supervisor and other members of committees, which is thought to be

a reformist move to back a popular view is carried out against the wishes of the opposition as this topic is often a point of contention during campaigns. Sources said that the government responded to all demands from the opposition, taking action against by-elections and vote buying, which is why the opposition in turn changed its core campaigning topics to include those that were related to services, improvement of infrastructure and other issues related to the education sector and the economy.

Following a mutual agreement between the opposition and the government, sources added that previously debatable topics have been taken away from the opposition, such as the separation of public services for expatriates and citizens.

King Hamad lauds Amir for supportive role

MANAMA: Bahrain's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa appreciated His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for his supportive role in developing bilateral relations. King Hamad was speaking at a reception given to Kuwait's Foreign Minister, Dr Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Abdulwahab Al-Rasheed, on the occasion of their visit to Bahrain. King Hamad also commended on the honorable stance taken by Kuwait towards Bahrain and its contributions towards the GCC, Arab world as well as for Islamic causes in the region. — KUNA



MANAMA: Bahrain's King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa meets Kuwait's Foreign Minister, Dr Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and his diplomatic team. —KUNA

Quiet quitting silently takes shape in Kuwait

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Quiet quitting, a new trend is gaining traction as a popular movement on TikTok, having a staggering 110.5 million views from just the hashtag alone. People on Tik Tok participated in the trend saying that employees must do only their assigned tasks, leave the office on time, and do not accept extra work, while others say it's a misnomer and should be defined as carving out time to take care of yourself.

Speaking to Kuwait Times, Ali Ahmad a 25-year-old Public Relations Officer in Kuwait, said, "At the beginning of any job, you are excited, looking for the best thing you have to offer. You want to work hard to invest in your dream career. You will be enthusiastic and pressure yourself to work hard, hoping that it brings promising results in the future, and then you do not see them. That is when you start quiet quitting."

He explained "I started quiet quitting after I noticed that my hard work was not appreciated. I noticed that I wasted my time, life, and effort for nothing. People around me were promoted because they had influential connections in the office, while I was working hard with less salary and with no promotion in sight. You see others work less and earn more, while I wasted effort, time, and energy, and no one cared. It caused a psychological problem for me because of these issues, and the issue slowly affects your physical health and you see your passion die down."

Abdullah Khalil, 34, accountant, told Kuwait Times that quiet quitting is a big part of people's work routine in Kuwait, adding "Most employees do not feel appreciated and tend to do the work exactly like they are supposed to do, no more and not less. Workers are now setting out to establish clear work-life boundaries to reduce their stress, but without being taken off, of the company payroll."

He noted that the new trend made several people speak out about how they work, to retain a healthy work-life balance while staying at their current jobs, explaining that there were many workers who quit their jobs later on, because of low pay, no opportunities for advancement, and feeling disrespected at work.

Meanwhile, Tarek Ahmed, 31, architectural engineer, said "In my point of view, quiet quitting is how people protest at not being appreciated and is usually seen among employees who suffer from work fatigue after working at the same place for more than 3 years. In my case, I started noticing that the firm I work for differentiated between candidates based on their nationality with benefits that a normal candidate can never get unless they have ten years or more of work experience which is unfair, especially if you're a fresh grad. Yes, I do know we don't live in a fair world, but we do live in the same one."

"Ever since I realized this fact, I gave in minimum efforts at work, since I have nowhere to go due to my governmental project visa which doesn't allow transfers to different firms, making it a clear form of modern slavery. Consequently, finding myself trapped, I found no other way and quiet quitting seemed to be the best option, especially in the current economic climate," Ahmed expressed his disappointment to Kuwait Times.

Ahmed also pointed out that people seek appreciation for their efforts and when they do not get it,



they either quit and look for a better opportunity or must suffer to fulfill their responsibilities, adding- "Why should we give in our best efforts, sacrificing time, health and sanity for nothing? This is a question every quiet quitter asks themselves to justify their actions." He added that people shouldn't be doing more work than they have to, and that just doing the work that you're paid for should be the standard.

Meanwhile, Huda Kimouch, 26, a teacher, believes that the term, quiet quitting, stems from companies exploiting their employees and highlights the culture of excessive labor without additional pay benefits practiced by these companies, adding out that if companies want creative and quality work, they should pay them for the extra work.

"Employers benefit financially from workers doing extra work without compensation and it is reasonable for employees to push back against that. As a teacher when I do my task with no passion, it will reflect on the children. Quiet quitting is not a good move for the company's owners, client, or the mental health of the employee," she noted.



One queen, many presidents: Elizabeth II's ties with US

'Nobody knows where their village is': New inland sea swamps Pakistan



DONETSK: A Ukrainian child holds a mock rifle while manning an improvised checkpoint at the Donetsk region of Ukraine, on September 8, 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. —AFP

Ukraine seizes key supply hub in east

Ukrainian troops are liberating more cities and villages

KHARKIV, Ukraine: Ukrainian forces said Saturday they had entered Kupiansk in eastern Ukraine, dislodging Russian troops from a key logistics hub in a lightning counter-offensive that has seen swathes of territory recaptured.

A pro-Russia separatist leader called fighting "difficult" in the Donetsk region while Moscow insisted its forces were "regrouping" after Ukraine's apparent battlefield gains. Ukrainian special forces published images on social media showing camouflage-clad officers with automatic weapons "in Kupiansk". It "was and will always be Ukrainian," their statement said. The town of some 27,000 people, which sits on a crucial supply route for Russia forces in the east, fell within the first week after the Kremlin ordered its invasion of Ukraine on February 24.

Observers of the conflict expect Ukrainian forces to announce further gains in the Kharkiv region, which borders Russia, and has been either controlled by Russia or shelled by its artillery for months. Denis Pushilin, the rebel official, said the situation in the town of Lyman in the Donetsk region was "very difficult" and that there was also fighting in "a number of other localities," particularly in the northern part of the region.

'Astonishing' advance

There was no official confirmation that Kyiv's troops had also routed Russian forces from Izyum—an important staging ground for Russia's war effort—with a pre-war population of around 45,000 people. But images flooding social media appeared to show Ukrainian forces within the city and Russian observers of the conflict said there were initial reports Moscow's army had already withdrawn.

"Ukrainian troops are advancing in eastern Ukraine, liberating more cities and villages. Their courage coupled with Western military support brings astonishing results," foreign ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko said in a statement on

social media.

"It's crucial to keep sending arms to Ukraine. Defeating Russia on the battlefield means winning peace in Ukraine," he added. His assessment of the pace of the Ukrainian gains came after President Volodymyr Zelensky announced late Friday that his troops had retaken some 30 towns and villages in the northeastern Kharkiv region as part of the sweep.

Ukraine's push appears to have caught Russian troops largely off guard. Russia's defence ministry said on Saturday that its forces were "regrouping" in an effort "to achieve the goals of the special military operation to liberate Donbas". This came after



"It's crucial to sending arms"

Moscow on Friday made the surprise announcement it was dispatching reinforcements to Kharkiv, with images on state media showing tanks and artillery and support vehicles moving in columns on dirt roads.

'Frightening'

The capture of urban hubs like Kupiansk and Izyum would be a significant blow to Russia's ability to effectively resupply positions on the eastern front-line and could see Russia pushed back from Kharkiv entirely. In one village captured by the advancing Ukrainians, electric pylons were toppled and cables lay across the ground and houses were gutted, AFP journalists reported. "It was frightening," said 61-year-old Anatoli Vasiliev recalling the battle earlier

this week that saw Ukrainian forces recapture the village from the Russians.

"There were bombings and explosions everywhere," Ukrainian troops were also advancing along portions of the southern front line, a spokesperson said Saturday, in some regions by dozens of kilometres, into territory captured by Russian troops at the beginning of the invasion. Russian news agencies meanwhile reported six large explosions in Nova Kakhovka, a town held by Russian troops in the southern Kherson region.

'We will stand by Ukraine'

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock arrived in the Ukrainian capital on Saturday for a surprise visit, which she said was to demonstrate Berlin's support for Ukraine in its battle against Russia. It came a week after Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmygal's trip to Berlin where he had repeated Kyiv's call for weapons. She pledged continued "deliveries of weapons, and with humanitarian and financial support".

Over recent weeks Germany has sent an array of weapons to Kyiv, supplementing other Western-supplied weapons that observers say have hurt Russia's supply and command abilities. Baerbock's visit follows US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's, during which he promised a nearly \$3 billion military package for Ukraine. In a meeting in Brussels with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, Blinken said Russia's push to send reinforcements showed Moscow was paying "huge costs" in its bid to capture and then hold Ukrainian territory.

However, Russian forces were still inflicting serious damage with a campaign of shelling in Kharkiv city and in the industrial region of Donbas in the east. The head of the Kharkiv region, Oleg Synegubov, said Russian shelling had left 14 civilians injured. Pavlo Kyrylenko, the head of the Donetsk region, which is part of Donbas, said Russian shelling had left two dead. — AFP

Scientists discover how air pollution triggers lung cancer

PARIS: Scientists said Saturday they had identified the mechanism through which air pollution triggers lung cancer in non-smokers, a discovery one expert hailed as "an important step for science - and for society". The research illustrated the health risk posed by the tiny particles produced by burning fossil fuels, sparking fresh calls for more urgent action to combat climate change.

It could also pave the way for a new field of cancer prevention, according to Charles Swanton of the UK's Francis Crick Institute. Swanton presented the research, which has not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal, at the European Society for Medical Oncology's annual conference in Paris. Air pollution has long been thought to be linked to a higher risk of lung cancer in people who have never smoked.

"But we didn't really know whether pollution was directly causing lung cancer - or how," Swanton told AFP. Traditionally it has been thought that exposure to carcinogens, such as those in cigarette smoke or pollution, causes DNA mutations that then become cancer.

But there was an "inconvenient truth" with this model, Swanton said: previous research has shown that the DNA mutations can be present without causing cancer - and that most environmental carcinogens do not cause the mutations. His study proposes a different model.

A future cancer pill?

The research team from the Francis Crick Institute and University College London analysed the health data of more than 460,000 people in England, South Korea and Taiwan. They found that exposure to tiny PM2.5 pollution particles - which are less than 2.5 microns across - led to an increased risk of mutations in the EGFR gene.

In laboratory studies on mice, the team showed that the particles caused changes in the EGFR gene as well as in the KRAS gene, both of which have been linked to lung cancer. Finally, they analyzed nearly 250 samples of human lung tissue never exposed to carcinogens from smoking or heavy pollution. Even though the lungs were healthy, they found DNA mutations in 18 percent of EGFR genes and 33 percent of KRAS genes. "They're just sitting there," Swanton said, adding that the mutations seem to increase with age. "On their own, they probably are insufficient to drive cancer," he said.

But when a cell is exposed to pollution it can trigger a "wound-healing response" that causes inflammation, Swanton said. And if that cell "harbors a mutation, it will then form a cancer", he added. "We've provided a biological mechanism behind what was previously an enigma," he said.

In another experiment on mice, the researchers showed that an antibody could block the mediator - called interleukin 1 beta - which sparks the inflammation, stopping cancer from getting started in the first place. Swanton said he hoped the finding would "provide fruitful grounds for a future of what might be molecular cancer prevention, where we can offer people a pill, perhaps every day, to reduce the risk of cancer". — AFP

Belgium's biggest trial opens after worst bombing

BRUSSELS, Belgium: Six years after Belgium's deadliest peacetime attack, a Brussels court will this week host a landmark trial that survivors hope will mark a step forward in their recovery and that of their nation. The case against alleged members of an Islamic State (IS) group cell that launched both the March 2016 suicide bombings in Brussels and the November 2015 attacks in Paris will begin Monday.

The Belgian attacks, in which three suicide bombers hit Brussels airport and a crowded underground metro station, killed 32 people and shattered the lives of hundreds of survivors. Nine alleged jihadists, including the cell's 32-year-old French ring-leader Salah Abdeslam, will face a variety of charges. One, thought to have been killed in Syria, will be tried in his absence.

The trial will be the largest ever staged in front of a Belgian jury, with 960 civil plaintiffs represented and the sprawling former headquarters of the NATO military alliance converted into a high-security court complex.

Abdeslam, already convicted in France and sentenced to life for his role in Paris, will not attend Monday's preliminary hearing, his lawyer said.

'Turn the page'

But many of the victims of the attacks are planning to attend the trial from day one, seeking under-



BRUSSELS, Belgium: File photo taken on March 22, 2016, people hold a banner reading in French and Flemish "I AM BRUSSELS" as they gather around floral tributes, candles, Belgian flags and notes in front of the Bourse of Brussels, in tribute to the victims of Brussels following triple bomb attacks in the Belgian capital that killed about 35 people and left more than 200 people wounded. — AFP

standing and closure following the carnage. "My life was completely destroyed. I lost my friends, gave up my hobby as a pilot," said Philippe Vandenberghe, an airport manager who rushed to assist wounded passengers and now suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Vandenberghe had a first aid certificate, but nothing to prepare him for the aftermath of an indiscriminate suicide bombing on a crowded airport concourse. He faced screaming victims engulfed in thick smoke and surrounded by broken glass and twisted metal.

The image of two children who had just lost their mother haunts him. "I gave first aid to 18 different

people. I'm sure that I saved one woman," the 51-year-old told AFP at his home in Louvain-la-Neuve.

Today he is unemployed, after a legal battle with his former employer and insurer over medical bills. He paints, helps out charity groups and is training as an ambulance driver. On Monday he will be in court, hoping that the trial will mark the start of a new stage in his recovery.

"We're hoping that our suffering will be recognised, that's the important part," he said. Before the bombings Sebastian Bellin, now 44, was a professional basketball player. Now, after around 15 surgeries, he has lost the use of one of his legs, and still relives the experience. — AFP

Obituary

'Nobody knows where their village is': New inland sea swamps Pakistan

'Our life and death is linked with our village, how can we leave?'

MEHAR, Pakistan: From a hastily erected embankment protecting Mehar city, mosque minarets and the price board of a gas station poke above a vast lake that has emerged, growing to tens of kilometres wide. Beyond this shoreline in southern Sindh, hundreds of villages and swathes of farmland are lost beneath the water — destroyed by floods that have affected nearly a third of Pakistan.

"Nobody knows where their village is anymore, the common man can no longer recognise his own home," Ayaz Ali, whose village is submerged under nearly seven metres (23 feet) of water, told AFP. The Sindh government says more than 100,000 people have been displaced by this new body of water, brought by record rains and the Indus River overflowing its banks.

Across the country, about 33 million people have been affected by the flooding, nearly two million homes and businesses destroyed, 7,000 kilometres (1.3 miles) of roads washed away and 256 bridges knocked out. A bus conductor with a sharp memory, Ali acts as a navigator for the navy, identifying each submerged village by the pattern of electricity pylons and distinct tree lines.

Navy volunteers cruise the waters on two lifeboats delivering aid donated by locals, ferrying people in need of medical care back to the city. With Ali's help, they search out patches of high ground where families still shelter, refusing to evacuate despite a desperate situation worsened by the scorching heat.

"Their homes and belongings are so precious to them," said one serviceman, who asked not to be named, looking out at the expanse of water. "When I joined the

navy, I could never have imagined doing this," he added.

Engine cut, the boat navigates slowly through the tops of trees, and heads duck under power lines ahead of a hamlet of crumbling houses encircled by water.

'How can we leave?'

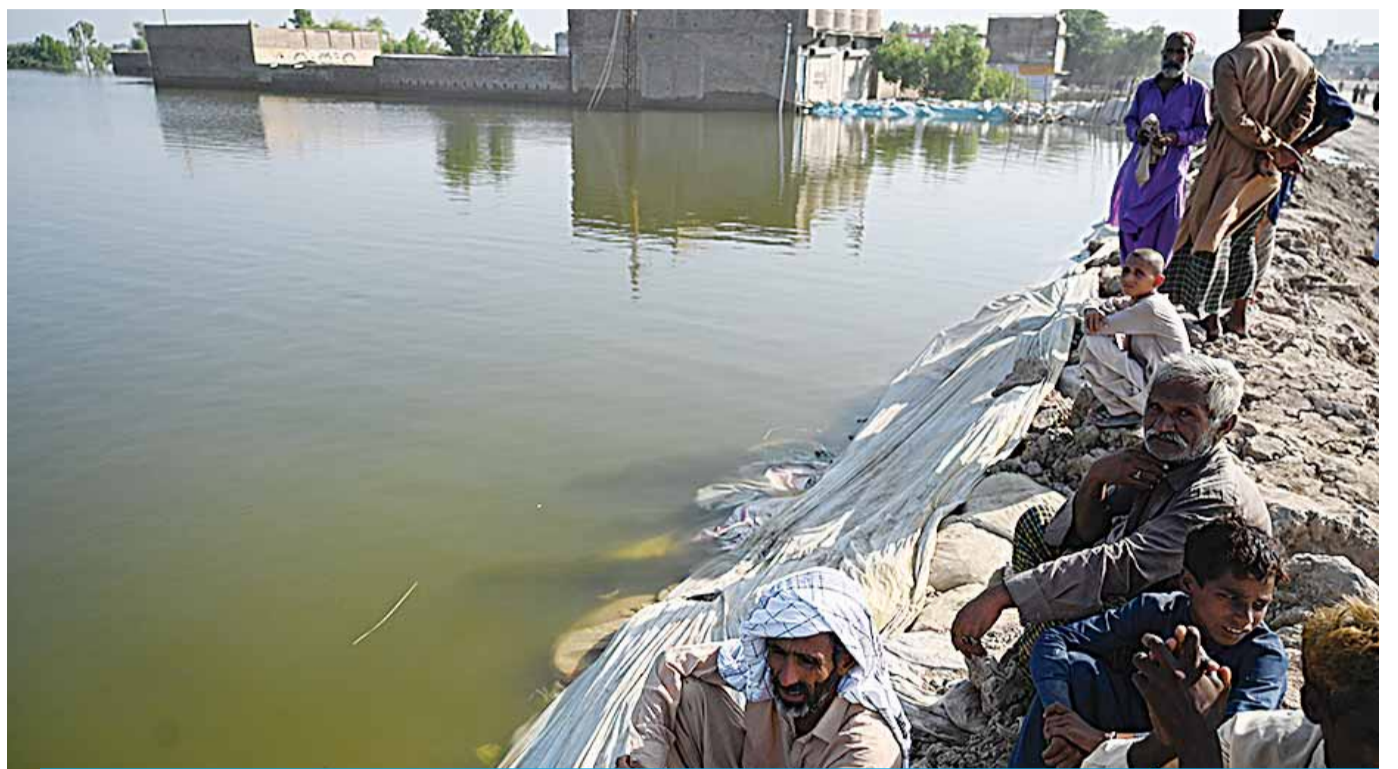
This time, dozens of people are waiting. Many still refuse to leave their homes, concerned their livestock — all that they have left — will be stolen or will die, and fearing a worse situation at the makeshift relief camps that have sprung up all over the country.

"Our life and death is linked with our village, how can we leave?" said Aseer Ali, knee-deep in water, refusing to let his wife, who is eight months pregnant, evacuate. Some relent — men with fever, toddlers with diarrhoea, and an elderly woman silent in her anguish — are among those helped onto the boat that carries double its capacity on a weighed-down journey back to the city.

Among them is a young mother who had only recently lost her newborn when the water rose around her home last week. She sways dizzily from the effects of heat stroke, her two-year-old child also distressed by the burning midday sun — both repeatedly drenched in water by a navy serviceman.

'Immense need'

A new 10-kilometre mud embankment has so far held back the flood from Mehar city, with a population of hundreds of thousands. But the city has swelled with displaced victims who over the past three weeks have fled to makeshift camps in car parks, schools and on motorways.



DADU: Flood-affected people gather by an embankment in Mehar city after heavy monsoon rains in Dadu district, Sindh province. —AFP

"More families keep arriving at the camp. They are in a terrible condition," Muhammad Iqbal, from the Alkhidmat Foundation — a Pakistan-based humanitarian organisation that is the only welfare presence at the city's largest camp, which hosts about 400 people.

"There is an immense need for drinking water and toilet facilities," he added, but they may have to wait longer — the government's priority is to drain the flooded areas. Pressure has heaped on swollen dams and reservoirs, forcing engineers to make intentional breaches to save densely populated

areas at the cost of worsening the situation in the countryside.

"They all have gone all out to protect the city but not the poor people of the rural areas," said Umaida Solangi, a 30-year-old perched with her children on a wooden bed at a city camp. —AFP



LONDON: Members of the public watch members of the Coldstream guards perform as the Principal Proclamation of Britain's new king, King Charles III, is read from the Friary Court balcony of St James' Palace on Sept 10, 2022. — AFP

Charles III proclaimed new...

Continued from Page 1

HH the Amir also wished His Majesty King Charles III and the royal family all wellbeing, and the United Kingdom and its friendly people more progress and prosperity under his sagacious leadership. HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent congratulatory cables to King Charles.

Charles automatically became monarch upon the queen's death aged 96 on Thursday, but the proclamation is the latest step in the set piece 10-day program building up to her state funeral. An emotional Charles set the tone for his reign in a televised address on Friday in which he hailed his "darling mama" for her "unswerving devotion" during her record-breaking seven decades on the throne.

The speech dominated the front pages of Britain's newspapers on Saturday, with his heartfelt tribute to his mother headlining the Daily Telegraph, Daily Express, Daily Mail and The Sun. Charles looking pensive as he arrived at Buckingham Palace for the first time as king made the front-page image on The Independent, The Guardian and The Times, which also carried the words "God Save the King".

The new king also named his elder son and heir Prince William, 40, as the new Prince of Wales, while expressing love for his younger son Harry and daughter-in-law Meghan. The move means William's wife Kate assumes the Princess of Wales title once held by his mother and Charles' ex-wife, the late Princess Diana.

Crowds have massed outside Buckingham Palace both to mourn the queen and to wish Charles well, greeting him with cheers and even kisses when he arrived from Scotland on Friday. "I'm sad, but you have to move on. I think the king will be different," said 53-year-old Londoner Sarah Berdien as Charles was formally proclaimed nearby. "The queen has always been the queen - always the same, no drama."

Recruitment worker Dany Van Laanen, 36, said Charles has "big shoes to fill" as he replaces his widely venerated mother, who was the only monarch that

most in the UK had ever known. "I do hope he will manage to modernize the monarchy," he said. Charles - who has seen his popularity recover in recent years from the time of Diana's death in a 1997 car crash - takes the throne at a moment of deep anxiety in Britain over the spiraling cost of living and international instability caused by the war in Ukraine.

The constitutional monarch, who is supposed to remain outside politics, has intimated he will now steer clear of pronouncements on issues that he has previously been outspoken on such as climate change. British Prime Minister Liz Truss - only appointed by the late monarch on Tuesday - offered the nation's support to Charles in parliament on Friday as she acknowledged the "awesome responsibility" upon Charles.

At their first formal audience at Buckingham Palace, Charles told her his mother's death was "the moment I've been dreading, as I know a lot of people have, but you try and keep everything going". The speaker of the House of Commons and selected senior MPs swore allegiance to the new king on Saturday and Charles was meeting Truss again, plus the cabinet and the heads of the opposition parties.

Buckingham Palace revealed Charles and other members of the royal family would observe an extended mourning period from now until seven days after her funeral. The date of the funeral, which will be attended by heads of state and government, has yet to be officially announced but is expected to be on Monday, Sept 19.

British security officials are planning what has been dubbed likely the "biggest policing and protective operation" in UK history as London gears up to host leaders from across the globe. US President Joe Biden has said he will attend. The Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin - at loggerheads with the West over his invasion of Ukraine - will not. But Putin did offer Charles "his sincerest congratulations" on ascending to the throne. "I wish Your Majesty success, robust health and above all the best," the Kremlin leader said in a telegram.

While the government has said there is no obligation on organizations to suspend business during its 10-day mourning period, many are doing so out of respect. England's Premier League postponed all matches this weekend, while railway and postal workers called off strikes over pay amid soaring inflation and spiraling energy prices. — AFP

Pakistan floods 'climate carnage'...

Continued from Page 1

Pakistan receives heavy - often destructive - rains during its annual monsoon season, which is crucial for agriculture and water supplies. But downpours as intense as this year's have not been seen for decades, while rapidly melting glaciers in the north have for months heaped pressure on waterways.

"Wealthier countries are morally responsible for helping developing countries like Pakistan to recover from disasters like this, and to adapt to build resilience to climate impacts that unfortunately will be repeated in the future," Guterres said, adding that G20 nations cause 80 percent of today's emissions.

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 most vulnerable to extreme weather caused by climate change. Around 33 million people have been affected by the floods, which have destroyed around two million homes and business premises, washed away 7,000 km of roads and collapsed 500 bridges.

Guterres has lamented the lack of attention the world has given to climate change - particularly industrialized nations. "This is insanity, this is col-

lective suicide," he said after arriving in Pakistan on Friday. The effect of the torrential rain has been twofold - destructive flash floods in rivers in the mountainous north, and a slow accumulation of water in the southern plains.

"All the children, men and women are eating in this scorching heat. We have nothing to eat, there is no roof on our heads," Rozina Solangi, a 30-year-old housewife living in a displacement camp near Sukkur, told AFP on Friday. "He must do something for us poor," she said of the UN chief's visit.

The meteorological office said Pakistan has received five times more rain than normal in 2022. Padidan, a small town in Sindh province, has been drenched by more than 1.8 m since the monsoon began in June. Water levels have reached far higher in areas where rivers and lakes have burst their banks, creating dramatic inland seas.

Thousands of temporary campsites have mushroomed on slivers of high ground in the south and west - often roads and railway tracks in a landscape of water. With people and livestock crammed together, the camps are ripe for outbreaks of disease, with many cases of mosquito-borne dengue reported, as well as scabies.

During his speedy tour, Guterres stopped at some of these makeshift camps and met with desperate flood victims, including a woman who gave birth overnight. Wearing an Ajrak shawl with a traditional Sindh block print, he later inspected the 4,500-year-old UNESCO world heritage site Mohenjo-Daro, which has suffered water damage from the relentless monsoon rain. — AFP

Pentagon combines sea drones, AI to...

Continued from Page 1

The Iranians said the USVs were in international shipping lanes and were picked up "to prevent possible accidents".

The US Navy said the USVs were operating well out of shipping lanes and unarmed. Vice Admiral Brad Cooper, commander of US Naval Forces Central Command, called the Iranian actions "flagrant, unwarranted and inconsistent with the behavior of a professional maritime force". US forces "will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows," he added.

The drones are operated by the Bahrain-based US 5th Fleet's Task Force 59, created last year to integrate unmanned systems and artificial intelligence into Middle East operations. Airborne and subsea drones are pretty well developed and proven, but unmanned surface boats are much newer and yet essential for the future, 5th Fleet spokesman Commander Tim Hawkins told AFP.

Since starting last year, the US Navy and regional partners have deployed both slow USVs like Saildrones and battery-powered speedboats like

the Mantas T-12. Equipped with solar panels and sail wings, the Saildrones carry multiple sensors and cameras, and are designed to spend up to a year at sea transmitting data by satellite.

San Francisco-based Saildrone operates around 100 vessels around the world for clients including the Pentagon, major oceanographic institutes, meteorological agencies, and groups studying fisheries and pollution. "Having circumnavigated Antarctica in 2019 and then having sailed through the eye of a category-four hurricane last year, there really isn't any maritime environment our drones cannot operate," said Saildrone spokeswoman Susan Ryan.

In the Gulf, Hawkins would only say that they collect information for "enhancing our vigilance of the surrounding seas and strengthening our regional deterrence posture". But Iranian activities are likely the main target. Iran also patrols the region and has accosted and seized foreign commercial vessels and harassed US Navy ships in several tense confrontations in recent years.

The US Navy has sought to prevent Iran from shipping weapons to Yemen's Houthi rebels and other groups, and also helps enforce sanctions on Iran. The key, Hawkins said, is taking the information collected from all sorts of unmanned sources, in the air, on the ground and on the sea, and making sense of it quickly. Artificial intelligence helps identify unusual activity, like unnoticed vessels, in the USV data that human observers might miss. —AFP

Candidates tackle corruption, jobs...

Continued from Page 1

Abdullah Mohammad Al-Mufarrej, running in the third constituency, highlighted the serious impact of imbalance in the demographic structure in the country, which is in favor of expats. He said the population structure has become a snowball that inflated and crossed all red lines, reminding expats form 70 percent of the population. "We have become a minority in our own country... marginal laborers and visa merchants

are in control of official decisions" he said. Mufarrej said there is no solution except by cleaning up Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, an area heavily populated by expats, and abolishing the "backwards" sponsor system, adding the next Assembly must expose visa traders.

Candidate Mohammad Al-Jouan from the third constituency warned that unemployment is rapidly growing into one of the country's top dilemmas. He said that 360,000 Kuwaitis, forming around 80 percent of national manpower, are employed by the government. During the next 15 to 20 years, around 325,000 fresh graduates are expected to enter the job market and the government has no capacity to employ them. At this point, Kuwait will start feeling the pinch of a real unemployment problem, he warned.

International

UK police step up security for first state funeral since 1965

Millions predicted to flock to London around the time of event

LONDON: As Britain prepares to stage its first state funeral in nearly six decades, security officials are planning what is expected to be the "biggest policing and protective operation" in UK history. Police are dusting off long-standing plans to keep safe attendees—including global political leaders and royalty—at Queen Elizabeth II's historic funeral, as well as the millions predicted to flock to London around the time of the event.

No date has been announced for the late queen's state funeral, which is the first since the service in 1965 for Winston Churchill, Britain's prime minister during World War II. But it is expected to be held in Westminster Abbey in the heart of the capital on September 19.

Prior to that, her body is set to lie in state for four days in Westminster Hall, the oldest building on the UK Parliamentary estate, following a ceremonial procession through the streets of London. The pomp-laden events, in particular the funeral, will require an array of elaborate security measures.

Hundreds of world leaders and dignitaries as well as millions of people are expected to descend on London. They include US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and leaders from countries where the British monarch is head of state or which are members of the 56-nation Commonwealth.

Japan's Emperor Naruhito will be among royalty from around the world set to attend the funeral, according to reports, in his first overseas trip since he ascended the Chrysanthemum throne in 2019 following his father's abdication.

"This will be probably the biggest policing and protective operation the UK has ever mounted," Nick Aldworth, former Counter Terrorism Policing National Coordinator, told The Independent outlet. "It just takes one car, one person to do something

abhorrent and not only have you disrupted a constitutional event, people will be injured and killed."

'Comprehensive plan'

Aldworth noted the ceremonial events would occur in a "very different threat world" compared to previous royal funerals, such as the Queen Mother's in 2002 and princess Diana's five years earlier. Britain has been hit by numerous terror attacks in the last decade, including a spate of atrocities in London, Manchester and other cities by jihadist extremists.

The current national threat level, set by the country's MI5 domestic security service and designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack, is "substantial". That is in the middle of a five-tier ranking system rising from "low" to "critical".

London's Metropolitan police said Friday it had already begun deploying "well-rehearsed" plans for the official 10-day national mourning period, which will culminate in the landmark service for the country's longest-serving monarch.

"We will be keeping people safe with highly visible patrols across London," the force said. "The public will see additional officers posted outside key locations, including transport hubs, royal parks and outside royal residences in London."

The Met is coordinating its policing blueprint with the British Transport Police, which is responsible for the national transport network, and City of London Police, which secures the so-called "Square Mile" financial district.

The Met's Deputy Assistant Commissioner Stuart Cundy said the "comprehensive policing plan" would be most visible in and around Westminster, which is home to parliament, the abbey and Buckingham Palace.

While the queen slaked the media's thirst for all things formal and splendid, she also understood the power of moments that were less scripted and more personal.

Tacos and scones

In 1982, she and Reagan, a onetime actor who appeared in Westerns, rode horses near Windsor Castle. He returned the favor the following year, treating the monarch to tacos and guacamole at his California ranch.

George H.W. Bush in 1991 took Elizabeth to a baseball game in Baltimore, where she shook hands with all the players. According to reports at the time, the queen passed on the chance to eat a hot dog at a pre-game reception, but did sip a martini.

In a handwritten 1960 letter to Eisenhower preserved at the National Archives, she gave the retired general her scone recipe, after he'd eaten the teatime favorite at Balmoral, the estate in Scotland where she died on Thursday at age 96. "I think the mixture needs a great deal of beating," the queen explains, adding that the baker should not let the dough sit too long before cooking.

She also suggests using "golden syrup or treacle instead of only sugar," noting "that can be very good, too." In more recent years, American leaders have expressed feeling like the aging queen was something akin to a mother figure.

"I don't think she'd be insulted but she reminded me of my mother—the look of her and just the generosity," Biden said after his June 2021 meeting with the queen.

The comment is particularly salient, given that when Biden was set to meet the queen for the first time, in 1982 in Britain when he was a young senator, his mother, a proud descendant of Irish immigrants, said: "Don't you bow down to her."

Grandmother

Trump told the Daily Mail that he thought of his own mother as he and wife Melania had tea with Elizabeth II at Windsor in 2018.

"My mother passed away a while ago, and she



EDINBURGH: Mounted Police officers are seen on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh on September 10, 2022, as preparations continue for the arrival of Queen Elizabeth's coffin over the weekend. —AFP

Disruption

British police have experience of handling major events, including last year in Glasgow, when hundreds of world leaders attended the UN climate summit COP26. In a sign of the days of disruption to come in the heart of the capital, numerous roads were closed Saturday for events related to the proclamation officially kickstarting the reign of the new king, Charles III.

Officers were also increasingly visible on the streets. "A great number of police officers will be on duty during this period, to ensure the safety of those visiting London and to deter any potential

criminality," Cundy added.

But fears have been raised over the Met's ability to cope with the huge crowds expected in the run-up to the funeral, with three Premier League football matches currently scheduled for next weekend in the capital, and other games elsewhere.

UK media reported a potential shortage of police could see fixtures called off in London and beyond, as officers are set to be redeployed en masse to the capital. All football matches were cancelled this weekend as a mark of respect to the queen, though some other sporting events are going ahead. —AFP

One queen, many presidents: Elizabeth II's ties with US

LONDON: She had scones with Dwight Eisenhower, went riding with Ronald Reagan and took tea with Donald Trump: Queen Elizabeth II saw 14 US presidents serve during her reign, and she crafted her "special relationship" with America in her dealings with them.

From Harry Truman to Joe Biden, the late monarch met every man who inhabited the White House during her 70 years on the throne save one—Lyndon B Johnson, who moved into the Oval Office following the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Her first visit to the United States came in 1951—the young princess waved to the crowd from the back seat of a convertible, with a visibly delighted Harry Truman at her side.

Even though she had not yet become queen, Elizabeth exhibited the oratory gravitas of a future head of state when she told the former British colony: "Free men everywhere look towards the United States with affection and with hope."

After that trip, color brightened official photographs of her travels across the pond. Elizabeth, whose reign dovetailed with the rise of the United States as a global superpower, offered all US presidents the same treatment: The studied distance that protocol requires, and the carefully calibrated air of familiarity.

Those meetings came at everything from state dinners at the White House to the time-honored tradition of tea time at one of her many royal residences.

She welcomed the Kennedys to Buckingham Palace for a lavish dinner, and danced in a yellow dress and glittering tiara with Gerald Ford at a state dinner in July 1976 that coincided with the bicentennial of American independence.

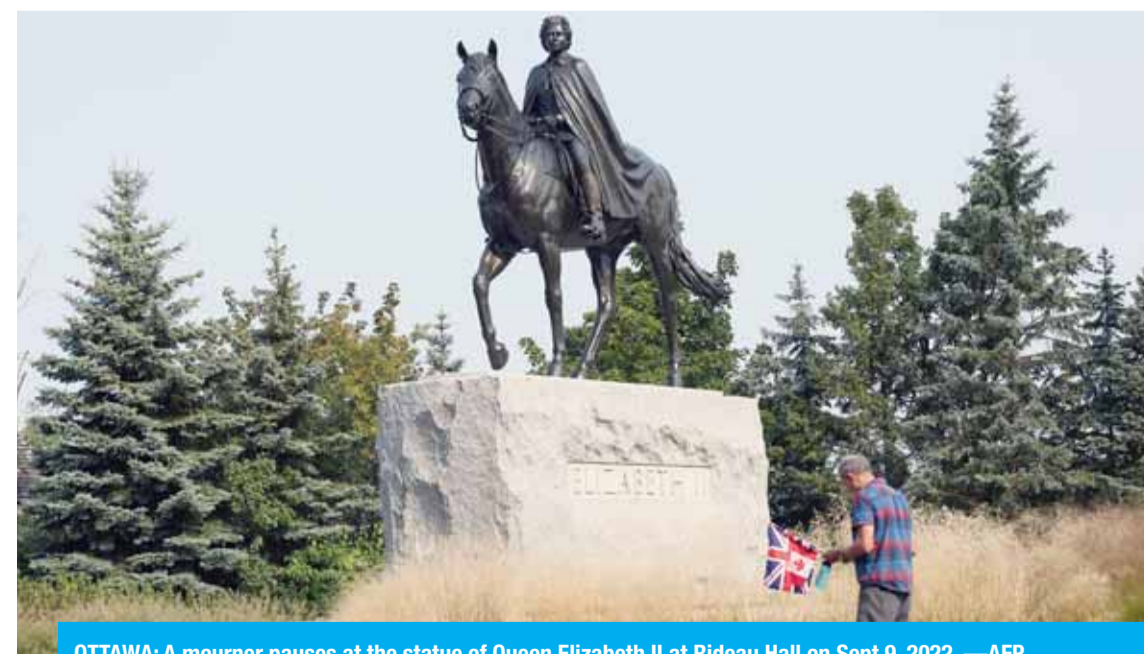
Canada admired its queen, but not so much the monarchy

MONTREAL: Canadians were attached to Queen Elizabeth II right to the end, but their relationship with the monarchy has been increasingly strained and experts believe her death on Thursday will reignite debate over its future.

"Canada is a monarchist exception in the middle of a rather republican continent," said Marc Chevrier, a politics professor at the University of Quebec in Montreal. In a few weeks, after the period of mourning, "the debates will resurface, Pandora's box will open," he added.

The British monarch is Canada's head of state, but the role is largely ceremonial, even more so than in Britain. Here the royals are represented by a governor general, who is selected by the prime minister. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hailed Elizabeth's reign, noting that she had been "queen for almost half of Canada's existence," and announced a 10-day period of mourning.

All flags have been lowered across the country and a national commemorative ceremony is planned in the capital Ottawa on the same day as her funeral in London. But when it comes to pomp, the country has become increasingly ambivalent toward the monarchy. "Even in English-speaking Canada, support for the monarchy has diminished over the years," said Philippe Lagasse, a professor at



OTTAWA: A mourner pauses at the statue of Queen Elizabeth II at Rideau Hall on Sept 9, 2022. —AFP

Carleton University in Ottawa and expert on the role of the monarchy in Canada.

According to a poll last April, a small majority of Canadians—rising to 71 percent in French-speaking Quebec province—would even like to dispense with the monarchy, whose role today is largely ceremonial. Sixty-seven percent said they opposed Charles succeeding his mother as king of the country. His visit to the country last May went almost unnoticed.



WASHINGTON: US President Ford and Queen Elizabeth dance during a state dinner in honor of the Queen and Prince Philip at the White House on July 17, 1976. —AFP

was a tremendous fan of the queen," he said at the time.

Obama, 15 years younger than Trump, said Elizabeth reminded him of his grandmother.

The 2009 meeting of the queen and the Obamas at Buckingham Palace has remained in the public's imagination: Michelle briefly put her arm around the queen and, to everyone's general surprise, Elizabeth did the same. "She meant a great deal to us," the Obamas said in a statement following her death.

All five living former US presidents—Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Obama and Trump—paid tribute to Elizabeth II in statements issued with their wives. The same words cropped up in the remarks: elegance; dignity; duty; humor, kindness. Biden ordered that US flags be flown at half-mast until the queen's funeral, including over the White House, which was torched in 1814 by British soldiers. —AFP

Iran greets queen's death with silence

TEHRAN: Tehran has avoided official comment on the death of Queen Elizabeth II, but some Iranians expressed outright hostility, accusing Britain of having supported the late shah's regime.

Unlike many countries with wall-to-wall coverage, state television in the Islamic republic reported the bare minimum on the death Thursday of the woman who had been the world's longest reigning monarch, with just a brief announcement along with archive footage and photographs.

Haniyeh, a student, told AFP she had learned of the queen's death from social media.

"I saw the news of her death on Instagram. I felt nothing, and frankly I couldn't care less," she said. Elizabeth II was crowned in 1953 aged just 27, and died in Scotland on Thursday at the age of 96.

Broadcasters around the world interrupted normal programming to announce her death, but young north Tehran market trader Faraz said he hadn't even heard of her. "I don't have a television at home and I've no interest in politics. I didn't know her," he said.

Many Iranians are interested in politics, both domestic and international. But most remain indifferent to the world's royal families ever since the Islamic revolution of 1979 toppled the country's own monarchy. Faezeh, a 26-year-old nurse, told AFP: "I knew nothing about her, and her death means nothing to me."

Queen Elizabeth visited Iran in 1961, staying in the magnificent Golestan Palace in Tehran. She also visited Isfahan, Shiraz and Persepolis, accompanied by Farah Pahlavi, the then empress. Elizabeth's son Charles—now Britain's King Charles III—visited Iran on a humanitarian mission following the devastating 2003 earthquake in Bam in the southeast that cost tens of thousands of lives.

A complex history

UK-Iran relations have always been complex. British and Soviet forces invaded Iran in 1941 to secure British oilfields at Abadan. During the occupation, the pro-Axis Shah Reza Pahlavi was forced into exile and replaced by his young son Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Britain also supported Pahlavi's army during the 1946 crushing of the Kurdish republic of Mahabad. But what Iranians remember most is the overthrow in August 1953 by the British and American secret services of prime minister Mohammad Mossadegh who had nationalised the oil industry.

"Queen Elizabeth II was one of those who orchestrated the coup that overthrew Dr Mossadegh's government" to restore the shah, wrote Twitter user Helma. Another Twitter user, Majid, was more forthright.

"Don't make a saint of the queen of England," he wrote. "Among her crimes were helping Iraq's Baathist regime against Iran (in the 1980-1988 war), the coup against Mossadegh, the killing of Princess Diana, helping the US attack Afghanistan and Iraq in 2001 and 2003, and murdering the people of Northern Ireland." —AFP

To follow the lead of Barbados, which in 2021 chose to secede from the British Crown and become a republic, Canada would need to bring in major reforms of its institutions and constitutional laws. A founding principle at the birth of Canada in 1867, "the monarchy is the keystone of all constitutional law," explains Chevrier. For example, he noted that "the office of prime minister does not even appear in the Canadian constitution, which only mentions the monarch." —AFP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

Business

After pulling out of TPP, US forges Asia trade framework

Washington looks to offer an alternative to economic might of China in Asia

WASHINGTON: The United States and a group of Asian allies on Friday agreed on a set of negotiating targets, notably on trade and supply chains, as Washington looks to offer an alternative to the economic might of China in the region. At the first ministerial for the Indo-Pacific Economic Prosperity Framework (IPEF), officials sketched the basis for common standards on key pillars, which also include green energy and the fight against corruption, in 14 countries accounting for 40 percent of the global economy.

"I feel very confident saying that IPEF will create jobs in the United States and will create jobs in other IPEF countries," US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said at the conclusion of the meeting.

"We were able to finalize all four of the ministerial statements, which lay out the full scope of the framework and provide a roadmap for future discussions." The initial meeting offered little flesh on the bones of the plans, which come several years after former president Donald Trump yanked the United States out of a much more comprehensive and hard-won regional trade block.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which has since gone ahead without Washington, was hailed as a "high quality" pact that offered a genuine bulwark to Chinese economic power. But with US public opinion more wary of free trade agreements, which are seen as a threat to American jobs, President Joe Biden's administration opted not to rejoin that pact.



LOS ANGELES: Ministers attending the Indo-Pacific Economic Ministerial pose for a family photo in Los Angeles, California, on September 8, 2022. — AFP

The IPEF brings together the United States, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Raimondo praised the "consensus and commitment among all" members, though she acknowledged that India had not signed onto agreements on trade and the digital economy.

Business leaders at the gathering said the frame-

works agreed over two days of negotiations were worthwhile in the absence of a robust pact like the TPP. "We were very supportive of the TPP but we've just moved on and we're being realistic right now," one business leader told AFP on condition of anonymity, adding that the focus is on "getting the best arrangement we can."

"If the US remains absent from the region, that's a risk," the person said, noting how Beijing has fre-

quently dangled sweeteners to regional players, in the form of infrastructure aid.

"Their help also comes with strings attached and in the long run, that can really hurt US companies in the region." The alliance is in theory an "open platform" that could eventually include other countries, but does not include Taiwan, a self-ruled island that Beijing claims as its own but that remains a US ally. — AFP

EU ministers fast-track energy plan

BRUSSELS: The EU executive pledged Friday to come up with unprecedented measures in the coming days to solve an energy price shock triggered by Russia's war on Ukraine, including a controversial gas price cap that could further anger the Kremlin. Moscow's invasion has seen the price of natural gas hit record levels, throwing the EU economy into deep uncertainty, with all eyes on whether Russian President Vladimir Putin will cut off the flow entirely.

European energy ministers tasked the European Commission in Brussels to work through the weekend to draw up legal texts that will include emergency funding for consumers sinking under the weight of soaring bills. The EU will table "unprecedented measures next week for an unprecedented situation", energy commissioner Kadri Simson said, after meeting the ministers.

Simson said compensation for struggling households and businesses would be covered by a levy on non-gas electricity companies, such as nuclear, solar or renewable firms, that are seeing a revenue bonanza on the back of high prices for electric power. The market price of electricity in Europe is closely linked to the gas price, meaning non-gas utilities are enjoying huge revenues despite far lower costs. Simson said fossil fuel companies would also be levied on their mega profits from the inflated energy prices.

Gas price cap

Despite heated debate among European countries, the EU will also attempt to lower the price on natural gas, possibly through a price cap on Russian imports or through negotiations with other suppliers. Czech Industry and Trade Minister Jozef Sikela, whose country holds the EU presidency, said there was a "prevailing view" among EU countries that some form of price ceiling was necessary.

But he called for patience "to fine tune where properly ... the cap should be implemented", adding



BRUSSELS: EU commissioner for Energy Estonia's Kadri Simson (left) speaks during a joint press conference with Minister of industry and trade of the Czech Republic Jozef Sikela as part of a meeting of EU energy ministers to find solutions to rising energy prices at the EU headquarters in Brussels on September 9, 2022. — AFP

that nothing was decided at this stage. Fears are rife that targeting Russia alone would only further rile Moscow, which has threatened to cut off the supply to Europe entirely if a cap is imposed.

Last week Russia caused a major scare when it halted gas deliveries to Germany via a key pipeline for an indefinite period, a move the Kremlin blamed on Western sanctions.

One leading approach would be for EU countries to jointly negotiate with major suppliers such as Norway, Algeria or the United States in order to squeeze out better terms. "Countries are calling for new thinking about capping the gas price ... and the question arises in different technical terms," said French energy transition minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher. Despite the differences, she added, "what is interesting is that there is a common desire to move forward on this subject."

One proposal that has broad backing is an idea to rescue electricity companies that are struggling to hedge their spending on energy markets that have been extremely volatile. This would be done by relaxing EU rules on state rescues of companies that are suddenly facing more onerous terms for cash as fears of a crisis spread. The commission will also design a mechanism to cut back on energy demand, with mandatory cuts imposed if voluntary limits at peak hours fail. — AFP

institutions, and economic activity," said Anna Bjerde, the World Bank's regional vice president for Europe and Central Asia.

Over the next 36 months the report estimates that \$105 billion will be needed to address urgent needs such as restoring education and health systems and infrastructure, preparing for the upcoming winter through restoration of heating and energy to homes, support to agriculture, and repair of vital transport routes. Ukraine Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said reconstruction already was underway in the de-occupied territories but will require help from international partners.

"Only for the first stage, rapid recovery, \$17 billion is needed, of which Ukraine needs \$3.4 billion already this year," he said in a statement.

Allies have rushed to pump aid into the war-ravaged country, with the G7 and the European Union contributing \$39 billion. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU has mobilized 10 billion euros "in financing, humanitarian, emergency, and military assistance for Ukraine and another 5 billion euros in financing are in the pipeline." —AFP

Tesla looking at building lithium refinery in Texas

HOUSTON: US electric car maker Tesla is studying the possibility of building a lithium refinery in Texas and is seeking tax breaks from the state to complete the project, according to documents made public Friday. While the project is only in the feasibility stage, Tesla said the factory on the Gulf coast would be the first of its kind in North America, producing an element critical to the batteries used in the growing EV market.

In an application sent to the Texas Comptroller at the end of August and made public on Friday, Tesla said the plant "will process raw ore material into a usable state for battery production."

The finished product, battery-grade lithium hydroxide, would be shipped by road and rail to various Tesla battery plants throughout the country. Construction could begin by the end of the year with production starting by the end of 2024.

The company led by billionaire Elon Musk stressed that "Tesla is still evaluating the feasibility of this project" which is in a "very preliminary" phase, so no contracts have been signed and no permits have been issued for construction. The decision to go ahead "will be based on a number of commercial and financial considerations, including the ability to obtain relief regarding local property taxes," the document said.



The cost of the project has not been quantified. Tesla also is studying the possibility of building a similar site in the state of Louisiana as an alternative.

Tesla's proposed project comes amid soaring lithium prices due to strong demand for the component, essential for making electric batteries. Musk complained about the rising costs in a tweet in April, and hinted at the possibility of moving into production.

"Price of lithium has gone to insane levels! Tesla might actually have to get into the mining & refining directly at scale, unless costs improve," he said on Twitter. China, Australia, Chile and Argentina, where the world's largest lithium resources are located, dominate the market for the production and exploitation of this highly coveted mineral. — AFP

Musk's latest reason to drop Twitter deal

SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk on Friday added a severance payment made by Twitter to a whistleblower to the list of reasons he feels entitled to walk away from his \$44 billion deal to buy the social media platform. A termination letter sent to Twitter accused the firm of not informing him about a multi-million dollar severance payment it made in June to departing security chief Peiter Zatkos, who went on to file a whistleblower complaint criticizing Twitter's security practices, according to a copy of the letter filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Musk's lawyers argued that failing to seek his consent before paying Zatkos provides another legal basis to break the merger deal with Twitter he inked in April. Twitter disagreed. "My friend seems to be arguing that Twitter should have gratuitously told Musk that there existed a disgruntled former employee who made various allegations that had been inquired upon and found to be without merit," Twitter attorney William Savitt said earlier this week.

"That doesn't make any sense."

Twitter did not respond to a request for comment on Friday. Musk, the world's richest man, said in his original termination letter that he was canceling the deal because he was misled by Twitter concerning the number of bot accounts on its platform, allegations rejected by the company.

In a mixed ruling earlier this week, Kathleen



WASHINGTON: This file illustration photo shows a cellphone displaying a photo of Elon Musk placed on a computer monitor filled with Twitter logos in Washington, DC. —AFP

McCormick, the chancellor of the Delaware court that is overseeing the case, said Musk could add whistleblowing revelations from Zatkos that surfaced in August. But she denied his request to push back the litigation, saying prolonging the suit "would risk further harm to Twitter too great to justify."

Musk has been locked in a bitter legal battle with Twitter since announcing in July that he was pulling the plug on the purchase of the company following a complex, volatile, months-long courtship. The five-day trial is due to go ahead beginning October 17 in the Delaware court. —AFP

Reconstruction of Ukraine to cost \$349bn: Report

WASHINGTON: Rebuilding Ukraine following the devastation caused by the Russian invasion will cost an estimated \$349 billion, according to a report issued Friday. But the figure, which totals 1.5 times the size of the Ukrainian economy, is considered a minimum and is expected to grow in the coming months as the war continues, according to the joint assessment by the government of Ukraine, the European Commission, and the World Bank.

Physical damage alone inflicted since the invasion in late February through June 1 already totaled \$97 billion, the report said. "The Russian invasion of Ukraine continues to exact a terrible toll, from significant civilian casualties and the displacement of millions of people to the widespread destruction of homes, businesses, social

Business

KFH wins two global awards in human resources field in 2022

Awards from Brandon Hall Group* KFH best in employee engagement and business automation

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) won two global awards in the human resources field for the year 2022 from Brandon Hall Group, a company specialized in the evaluation and performance assessment of banks, companies, and institutions around the world. KFH was awarded the silver medal in "Best Advance in Employee Engagement" category and a bronze medal in "Best Advance in Business Automation". Both awards affirm the quality of KFH's Human Resources and the advancement and uniqueness of its processes and applications as well as the consolidation of its efforts in adopting the best global standards, which have been commended by experts in the field.

Brandon Hall Group is a US-based research and analyst firm and the only professional development company that offers data, research, insights, and certifications to learning and talent development executives, influencing the development of more than 10,00,000 employees and executives from around the world.

The Human Capital Management (HCM) Excellence Awards was the first to recognize leading organizations for their learning and talent management, in addition to being the most reputable and reliable HR award worldwide.

The Group's awards are given based on several

criteria, the most important of which are that the HR program fits the needs of the organization, with a distinctive design and delivery, measurable benefits, and overall impact on the organization.

KFH Group Chief Human Resources Officer, Zeyad Al-Omar said that the two awards confirm the advancement of KFH's HR practices and the particular importance the Bank attaches it to employee engagement and business automation, adding that due to the dedicated efforts of its employees in the HR department, KFH was able to successfully compete with the world's largest and significant organizations and attain the two prestigious awards. This recognition is not only a reaffirmation of KFH's leadership regionally but also globally as it is one of the first banks in Kuwait and the gulf to achieve this success.

He added that leading employee engagement is one of the pillars of KFH's strategy. Moreover, KFH is one of the first local and regional banks to implement the annual engagement survey in 2013 through which employees' satisfaction is measured under a transparent, professional and confidential process to enhance areas of strengths as per the survey results. The survey contributes to improving the work environment by setting and executing plans according to key survey indicators. The teamwork



Zeyad Al-Omar

at KFH, at different levels, resulted in an increase of the employee engagement yearly index, compared to the years before and to other high-performing regional institutions.

Al-Omar noted that the success of KFH's executive plans was the result of the coherence of its employee engagement practices, saying that the Group Human

Resources Department is dedicating its efforts towards employees' aspects, suggestions and needs, which directly enhanced employee loyalty by meeting their aspirations.

Al-Omar highlighted the importance of the annual engagement survey, which is prepared by one of the mega and well-established HR companies while maintaining employee confidentiality. He explained that business automation with highly qualified staff is one of the key reasons behind the success of HR operations, stating that the systems and practices adopted are the most advanced in Kuwait and the

gulf. He added that the qualified HR team is dedicated to overseeing the process, as well as improving the systems to better adopt with KFH's aspirations, noting that the HR team supervising the HR systems are considered as a regional reference not only for KFH but for other local and regional banks in seeking their expertise for the implementation and development of the HR operations.

He added: "These efforts have resulted in KFH's obtainment of the medal bronze in Business Automation, as ratified by Brandon Hall Group for the major development and the qualitative shift in automating and digitizing its HR systems which contributed to the efficiency and effectiveness of business outputs."

Al-Omar indicated that the awards are the result of the dedication and hard work of all the employees in the HR department, as well as the continuous attention of the Executive Management and the Board and their focus on providing the best benefits and improving the work environment for employees, saying that the awards are thus a motivation towards a further enhancement in achieving highest level of performance and recruiting more young national talents that are capable of taking the lead and maintaining the standing and development of KFH in Kuwait and the world.

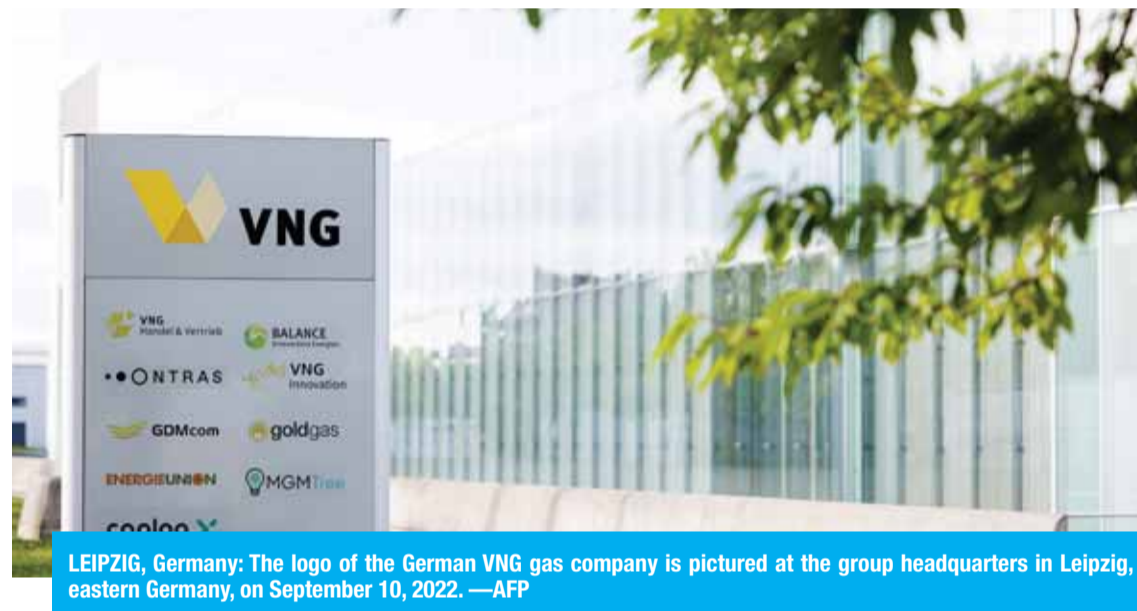
German gas firm VNG seeks govt aid as energy prices soar

BERLIN: German gas company VNG on Friday became the latest European energy firm to seek government aid as reduced Russian pipeline flows pushed up energy prices and put its business under stress. VNG, Germany's third-largest gas importer and storage operator, asked for support to "avert further losses" and allow the group's "business operations as a whole to continue", it said in a statement.

Russia has slowly dwindled supplies of gas to Europe in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine, sending prices for the fuel soaring. Unfulfilled contracts meant "gas quantities had to be procured at significantly higher prices" on the open market to meet supply arrangements with customers at "significantly lower, contractually agreed prices", VNG said.

The cash crunch left VNG in "an increasingly critical financial situation through no fault of its own", it said. "Further supporting measures" were needed despite a government plan to allow gas companies to pass on some of their procurement costs from October 1, VNG said. The precise nature of the government support was not specified.

Speaking at a regular press conference, a spokesman for the economy ministry said the gov-



LEIPZIG, Germany: The logo of the German VNG gas company is pictured at the group headquarters in Leipzig, eastern Germany, on September 10, 2022. —AFP

ernment's full "tool box" of measures was available. These include the possibility of the federal government taking a stake in struggling energy companies, as well as extending lines of credit.

The government remained "in talks" with VNG, the spokesman said. VNG, which supplies "approximately 400 municipal utilities and industrial customers" with gas, is majority-owned by the German utility EnBW, itself part-owned by the region of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Uniper, Germany's biggest importer of Russian

gas, asked for government support earlier this year under the pressure of rising gas prices. Officials in Berlin agreed to take a 30 percent stake in the struggling company as part of a bailout greed in July.

But a nine-billion-euro (\$9-billion) line of credit extended by Berlin to the company to secure its financial position had already been exhausted by late August, Uniper said. Finland, Austria and Switzerland have also extended support to prop up energy firms. —AFP

EU economies to sidestep Hungary on global tax

PARIS: Germany, France and three other top European economies said Friday they would implement an international minimum tax on big corporations, sidestepping Hungary's opposition to an EU-wide plan. The decision by France, Germany, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands effectively ends months of effort to implement the tax jointly across all 27 member states. The 15-percent minimum tax was one of two pillars of a major international agreement decided at the OECD and signed by more than 130 countries, including Hungary and the United States.

"Should unanimity not be reached in the next weeks, our governments are fully determined to follow through on our commitment," the countries said in a joint statement. "We stand ready to implement the global minimum effective taxation in 2023 and by any possible legal means," the countries added. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, who initiated the joint text, said that "tax justice must be a priority for the European Union".

"We will put in place minimum taxation from 2023, either through the European route or through the national route," said Le Maire. Christian Lindner, his German counterpart, said Germany will "if necessary" adopt the tax "independently of an agreement at the European level".

The EU's original ambition was that the 27-member bloc would be the first jurisdiction to implement the OECD-brokered agreement. The bloc-wide plan needed the vote of all EU countries in order to pass. The resistance by Hungary came as the relationship with its EU partners remained fraught, with Budapest along with Warsaw seen as steering away from the bloc's democratic values.

The Hungarian veto of the minimum tax is seen by many in Brussels as a means of pressure to obtain the release of seven billion euros (\$7.3 billion) in grants planned under the European pandemic recovery plan. —AFP



LONDON: General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union (CWU), Dave Ward, speaks to Royal Mail postal workers as they stand on a picket line outside a delivery office, in north London, on September 8, 2022, during a strike.

UK rail, postal staff halt strikes after queen's death

LONDON: British railway and postal workers, at the forefront of sector-wide strikes over a cost-of-living crisis, have halted upcoming walkouts following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Communication Workers Union had planned to continue a 48-hour stoppage Friday but it was called off "out of respect for" the queen, CWU general secretary Dave Ward said in a statement following the queen's passing in Scotland on Thursday.

The Trades Union Congress said it had postponed its four-day annual conference due to have begun Sunday. "The UK's trade union movement sends our condolences to the Royal Family on the death of the Queen, and recognizes her many years of dedicated service to the country," the TUC added in a statement.

The RMT rail union said it was suspending walkouts planned for next week and the TSSA transport union has called off its September strikes. Train drivers' union Aslef has also suspended a planned stoppage.

"RMT joins the whole nation in paying its respects to Queen Elizabeth," its general secretary Mick Lynch said in a statement. "The planned railway strike action on 15 and 17 September is

suspended. "We express our deepest condolences to her family, friends and the country," Lynch added.

Network Rail, which manages Britain's railways, said it welcomed "the unions' decision to call off" strikes. In Scotland, refuse collectors had already decided a week ago to suspend walkouts as they mull an improved pay offer.

Summer of strikes

Tens of thousands of workers went on strike across Britain over the summer as decades-high inflation erodes earnings. The walkouts have been spearheaded by the rail sector, which has carried out its biggest industrial action in 30 years.

Some proposed non-rail strikes were halted after unions and companies agreed pay deals at the eleventh hour. But walkouts have still gone ahead by Amazon warehouse staff and criminal lawyers in recent weeks. Analysts are forecasting sector-wide stoppages to continue this year as inflation keeps on rising. New Prime Minister and Conservative party leader Liz Truss is seen as wanting to take on the unions, which are traditionally allied to the main opposition Labour party.

In a bid to ease the cost-of-living crisis, Truss this week announced a huge financial package that will cap domestic energy bills. This will eventually help to trim inflation but not before many households and business first see bills increase in October. Teachers and health workers have meanwhile hinted at possible walkouts should they not receive new pay deals deemed acceptable. —AFP

Blinken to visit Mexico for economic talks

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and top US trade officials will visit Mexico next week for economic talks, the State Department announced, hoping to improve ties that have frayed in recent years. The US-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue "is a strategic and flexible diplomatic platform for the United States and Mexico to advance shared economic, commercial, and social priorities," the department said in a statement late Thursday.

Blinken will visit Mexico City on September 12 with US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, and Deputy US Trade Representative Jayme White, meeting with their Mexican counterparts. The two countries are part of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement of July 2020.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Mexico was the second largest trading partner of the United States, behind China, with more than \$675 billion in annual trade, according to US figures. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador visited Washington for talks with President Joe Biden in July, with Biden saying the two sides need to rebuild relations.

A month earlier the Mexican leader snubbed Biden by refusing to participate in the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles on the grounds that Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua had not been invited. Key issues creating strains include the tens of thousands of migrants each month who pass through Mexico hoping to cross the border into the United States. Washington has also challenged the Mexican government's support for its own state-controlled energy companies CFE and Pemex, limiting the ability of US firms to compete in the Mexican market and allegedly in violation of the trade pact. —AFP

Zambia's economy to bounce back and grow 4%: President

LUSAKA: Zambia's economy is expected to bounce back and reach a four percent growth rate in the medium term, the country's president said on Friday, a week after the signing of a key IMF deal.

President Hakainde Hichilema told parliament things were starting to look up for the debt-ridden southern African nation a year after his government came to power having inherited a "broken economy". "We have put our economy on a positive growth trajectory in the last 12 months," Hichilema told lawmakers at the opening the second session of the National Assembly in Lusaka.

In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic battered Africa, Zambia became the first country on the continent to default on its foreign debt—estimated at \$17.3 billion. Hichilema, a businessman turned politician, swept to power on promises to revive the economy, root out graft and woo back scared investors to Africa's second biggest copper producer.

Last week, the International Monetary Fund approved a \$1.3 billion loan to help it restore fiscal stability. On Friday, Hichilema said the government projected the economy, which contracted by 2.8 percent in 2020, to attain a growth rate of "4 percent in the medium term".

Zambia's kwacha, which soared against the dollar in the wake of the IMF deal, was now "one of the best performing currencies in the world", the president said. Inflation had also been subdued, with the country on course to achieve its targeted rate of 6 to 8 percent in the medium term, Hichilema added. The president also called for the support of all creditors so that Zambia could "achieve the last mile" in the restructuring its "disastrous debt". —AFP

Business

Fed must keep raising rates into next year to fight inflation: Official

US inflation reaches 40-year high, economy shows signs of recession

WASHINGTON: The US central bank will have to stick to its policy of raising interest rates into next year to ensure that high inflation comes down to the two percent target, a Federal Reserve official said Friday. Fed Governor Christopher Waller cautioned that lowering inflation will take time, and he supports another "significant increase" in the benchmark lending rate at the September 20-21 policy meeting.

The strong job market and the fact the world's largest economy has avoided a recession allow the Fed to continue to move aggressively, he said in a speech prepared for delivery to a conference in Vienna.

"I expect it will take some time before inflation moves back to our 2 percent goal," he said, and the Fed "will be tightening policy into 2023." His comments echoed the hawkish statements from other Fed officials recently, including US central bank chief Jerome Powell, who on Thursday stressed that policymakers must move "strongly" to avoid a repeat of the painful inflation surge the US economy suffered in the 1970s and 1980s.

US inflation has reached a 40-year

high this year, and though the economy saw two quarters of negative growth—which is commonly viewed as a sign of recession—low unemployment and strong spending show activity has not slowed significantly. "The fears of a recession starting in the first half of this year have faded away and the robust US labor market is giving us the flexibility to be aggressive in our fight against inflation," Waller said.

"Right now there is no tradeoff between the Fed's employment and inflation objectives," he said.

The Fed has raised rates four times this year including two massive three-quarter point hikes, with a third expected later this month. How high policymakers will have to take the benchmark rate will depend on incoming inflation data, Waller said.

But "I believe the policy decision at our next meeting will be straightforward," he said.

He cautioned that even amid some encouraging signs of moderating price pressures "it is too soon to say whether inflation is moving meaningfully and persistently downward."

"This is a fight we cannot, and will

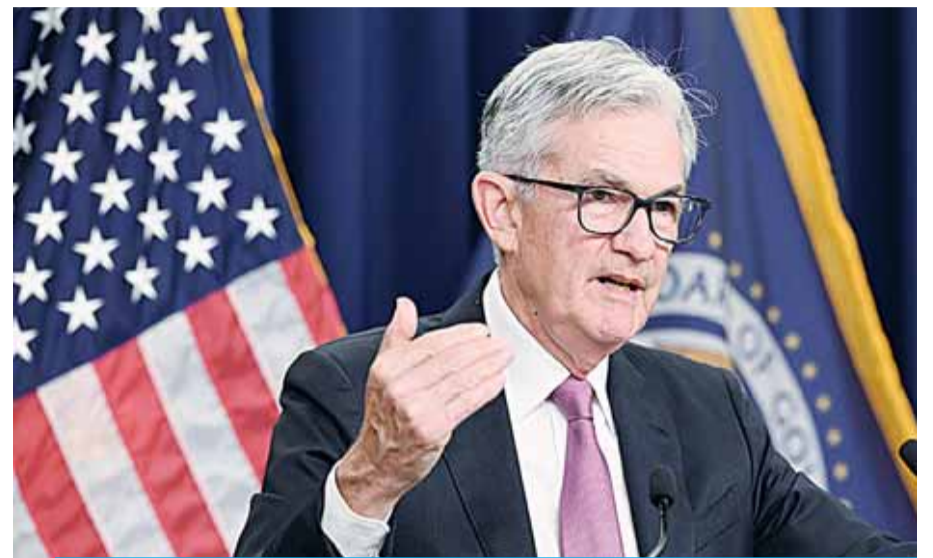
not, walk away from."

The ECB warned Thursday that inflation was "far too high" and likely to stay above target for "an extended period" as it announced its record 0.75 percentage point hike. ECB chief Christine Lagarde made clear interest rates were far from where they need be to bring inflation down.

"We actually took the decision today that we would continue to raise interest rates... because we believe that we are far away from the rate at which we hope we'll see inflation return to the two percent medium term target," she said.

Lagarde also warned the eurozone risks recession if Russia completely cuts off gas, which it has nearly done. But comments by Fed chief Jerome Powell were seen as even more hawkish than those by Lagarde. "We need to act now forthrightly, strongly as we have been doing and we need to keep at it until the job is done to avoid ... the kind of very high social costs" of the surge in inflation in the 1970s and 1980s, Powell told a US think tank.

Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at online trading platform IG, said "Investors clearly believe that the Fed is



WASHINGTON: In this file photo taken on July 27, 2022, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell speaks during a news conference in Washington, DC. —AFP

more committed to higher rates than the ECB, while the stronger economic performance of the US means the greenback and not the euro seems the more attractive prospect." The euro, which had broken back above parity with the

dollar, slid down as far as \$0.9934 before recovering some ground. The Fed has made it clear it plans to continue to aggressively raise interest rates to rein in surging inflation, even at the cost of causing some economic pain. —AFP

UK business mourns queen as souvenir sales boom

LONDON: British business paid tribute Friday to Queen Elizabeth II, with department stores shut, flags lowered, clocks stopped and meetings postponed, but souvenir sales boomed near Buckingham Palace as well-wishers thronged. London's iconic Selfridges, on the capital's Oxford Street shopping thoroughfare, and nearby Liberty on Regent Street closed out of respect for the nation's longest serving monarch who died Thursday.

Many company headquarters lowered flags, while the Bank of England has delayed an interest rate meet-

ing until after the funeral. Fortnum and Mason, the Royal Family's tea supplier, was shuttered and even stopped the clock on the front of its luxury department store in London's Piccadilly quarter.

"We are proud to have held a warrant from Her Majesty since 1954, and to have served her and the royal household throughout her life," F&M said on their website. "As a sign of our deep respect, we have lowered our flag to half-mast and stopped the Piccadilly facade clock." Elsewhere, the remembrance business was in full swing nearer the palace, as well-wishers gathered to pay respects to the Royal Family—and hoped to catch a glimpse of King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla.

"Everyone wants a souvenir"

"Everyone wants a queen souvenir," shop manager Nassir Abdel told AFP at Buckingham Gate, a stone's throw from the main royal residence. Abdel, who kept his shop open overnight owing to keen demand, said he

had placed an order for souvenirs featuring King Charles III—but they will take a couple of weeks to arrive. Customer Janet Saxton, a 73-year-old pensioner from Yorkshire in northern England, browsed the shop's key rings, mugs and other trinkets bearing the likeness of the late monarch before heading to the palace gates. On Oxford Street, souvenir salesman Nazz said business was brisk. "In the coming days we're going to sell" even more objects featuring the queen while awaiting Charles merchandise, he told AFP.

Worldwide coverage of the queen's passing is expected to boost Britain's economy to some extent as it looks to stave off recession caused by decades-high inflation. Her funeral due September 19 "should have an impact on the tourism sector and the souvenir industry," according to Mirabaud analyst John Plassard. "The royal family, which regularly features on the front pages of newspapers, is an object of constant fascination, including well beyond the kingdom's borders. —AFP



LONDON: Souvenirs depicting models of the late Queen Elizabeth II are pictured inside a shop, in London, on September 9, 2022, a day after she died at the age of 96. —AFP

Ahead of election, Brazil consumer prices decline

RIO DE JANEIRO: Consumer prices in Brazil fell for a second consecutive month in August, by 0.36 percent from July, while 12-month inflation dropped under 10 percent, the IBGE statistics institute said Friday. The biggest contributor to the decrease was lower transport costs, said the institute.

This was driven, in turn, by lower fuel prices due to a cut in state fuel taxes introduced by the administration of President Jair Bolsonaro.

In July, consumer prices had fallen by 0.68 percent in Latin America's biggest economy, the lowest since records began in 1980. Over the 12 months to August, inflation came to 8.73 percent, said the IBGE—still far above the central bank's target of 3.5

Stocks and oil rally as dollar drops

NEW YORK: Stock markets and oil prices rallied Friday, with investors largely pricing in more central bank interest rate hikes aimed at taming surging inflation. The dollar slid as much as one percent against the pound and euro after recent hefty gains.

London's stock market jumped 1.2 percent, mirroring advances in Paris and Frankfurt, while the British capital's exchange mourned the death of Queen Elizabeth II. "We are deeply saddened at the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II," the London Stock Exchange said in a message posted on its website following her death on Thursday.

The LSE is expected to shut on the day of the queen's funeral. "Markets are being very British about the whole thing, carrying on in a fashion that I suspect she would have approved of," said IG analyst Chris Beauchamp.

Wall Street followed the upbeat European session with a third straight positive day. The S&P 500 finished at 4,067.36, up 1.5 percent for the day and 3.6 percent for the week, snapping a three-week losing stream.

Dollar off highs

The more confident mood across equity and oil markets was reflected in a cooler dollar, which had surged to multi-decade highs against major peers in recent weeks owing to the US Federal Reserve's hawkish tone promising even more interest rate hikes. "There are hopes that the sharp rate increases from the Fed may already have dampened demand, causing US inflation to weaken," said Fawad Razaqada, City Index and FOREX.com analyst.

The greenback's softness came even after yet another strong statement from a leading US cen-

percent. For the year to date, the figure was 4.39 percent.

Up for reelection next month, far-right Bolsonaro is trailing in the polls behind his leftist nemesis, ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Critics accuse the president, who has also introduced expensive welfare benefits, of using economic populism to boost his election chances. Polling shows the economy to be voters' top concern.

As economic figures have improved, so has Bolsonaro's polling, narrowing the gap between himself and Lula. Brazil registered growth of 1.1 percent in the first quarter and 1.2 percent in the second, as well as a drop in unemployment on top of the inflationary relief.

Haunted by a history of hyperinflation, Brazil's central bank reacted aggressively to global price surges unleashed by the coronavirus pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Since March 2021, the bank has rapidly raised the benchmark interest rate from an all-time low of two percent to 13.75 percent. —AFP



TOKYO: A man looks at an electronic share price board showing numbers on the Tokyo Stock Exchange (left) and a foreign exchange board showing the Japanese yen's rate against the US dollar (right) in Tokyo. —AFP

tral banker. Fed Governor Christopher Waller on Friday was the latest to reaffirm the hawkish stance to combat rising prices.

He warned that lowering inflation will take time and higher rates, and said he supports another "significant increase" in the benchmark lending rate at the September 20-21 policy meeting.

In Asia, Hong Kong rose close to three percent heading into a long weekend.

There was also some cheer from news that inflation in China eased slightly in August, giving the government more room to introduce more economy-supporting measures, though the recovery remains hostage to leaders' strict zero-COVID strategy of growth-sapping lockdowns.

The euro was holding well above parity with the dollar, one day after the European Central Bank announced its own 75 basis-point rate increase as it warned inflation was "far too high" and likely to stay above target for "an extended period". The yen strengthened as officials began speaking up after the unit approached a 32-year low against the greenback. The pick-up came after Bank of Japan chief Haruhiko Kuroda met Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Friday before saying "the rapid weakening of the yen is undesirable". The talks were seen as a sign of intent to act in support of the currency if it continued to weaken. —AFP

DHAMAN
شركة مستشفيات الضمان الصحي
Health Assurance Hospitals Company



Tender Announcement - Ref. # RFP 245

Supply of Medical Consumables

Health Assurance Hospitals Company (DHAMAN) invites all interested organizations to participate in this open tender to supply medical consumables to DHAMAN Hospitals.

DHAMAN is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) to the potential Bidders to provide comprehensive solution for the supply of medical consumables required for DHAMAN's healthcare system and scope of services.

Minimum Requirements:

1. A Company specialized in supplying medical consumables and registered in CAPT.
2. The bidder must have a comprehensive list of medical consumables, is the agent in Kuwait for world renowned medical consumables companies and have an inventory management and related logistics system.
3. Minimum 6 years Mass Scale supply of medical consumables with sound references in the Private and Public hospitals.
4. Must Have an automated system to link with DHAMAN inventory management system.
5. Support DHAMAN to plan and validate the quantities of medical consumables required for DHAMAN's hospitals.
6. The ability to deliver the required quantities on daily/weekly basis.
7. Capacity: Ability to always meet DHAMAN's requirements regardless of increased volume.

Companies interested in participating in this tender shall contact DHAMAN to purchase the RFP Booklet through the below address:

Supply Chain Management Department
Health Assurance Hospitals Company (DHAMAN)
Al Dhow Tower, 13th Floor, Khaled ibn Al-Waleed Street, Sharq, Kuwait

For enquiries, contact procurement@dhaman.co, clearly mentioning the RFP number in the subject line.

Non-Refundable RFP Fee	1,000 KWD
Bid Bond	50,000 KWD
End Date to Buy the Tender	Tuesday 20 September 2022
Tender Due Date	Thursday 13 October 2022

Lifestyle | Features

William and Kate modernize royal family life



In this file photo taken on April 29, 2011 Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, wave to the crowd from the balcony of Buckingham Palace in London, following their wedding. —AFP photos



In this file photo taken on July 23, 2013 Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge show their new-born baby boy to the world's media outside the Lindo Wing of St Mary's Hospital in London.

William and Kate have brought a more relaxed and personal approach to royal duties and are raising their children in relatively hands-on fashion, presenting a more modern vision of the monarchy for a new age. The well-liked couple, newly appointed as the prince and princess of Wales, married in 2011 and have presented themselves and their three children—George, Charlotte and Louis—as a model family. Royal expert Richard Fitzwilliams said they had “mastered both the formal and the informal” with carefully curated glimpses into their life on social media, in a clear break with the past and to satisfy constant press interest. “They’ve been tremendously successful in protecting this mix of normality and royal status,” he told AFP.

William and Kate, both now 40, met while studying at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. At the time, the prince was considered a heartthrob, with his attendance massively boosting applications to the ancient Scottish university. Like his uncle, Prince Andrew, brother Harry, and father Prince Charles, William opted for a military career, becoming an army officer in 2006. He qualified as a Royal Air Force search and rescue helicopter pilot in 2009. After marrying Kate, he lived with her and young George, who was born in 2013, for several years in a rented farmhouse on Anglesey off the coast of northwest Wales.

William then switched to work as a civilian air ambulance pilot from 2015, living at Anmer Hall, on his grandmother's Sandringham estate in Norfolk, eastern England. He became a full-time royal in 2017 and shifted the family's base to an apartment in Kensington Palace, London. The family moved to Adelaide Cottage in Windsor and this week all three children began at a nearby private school called Lambrook. Charlotte and George previously attended a private day school in London where fees exceed £6,000 (\$8,000, 7,000 euros) per term, while Louis went to a nursery. Kate and William's children are reportedly being raised to enjoy outdoor pursuits with limited screen time. William vented about the difficulties of sharing home schooling duties with Kate during the coronavirus lockdown—albeit living in a 10-bedroom country house given to him by his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II.



In this file photo taken on July 21, 2017 Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, and their children Prince George and Princess Charlotte on the tarmac of the Airbus compound in Hamburg, northern Germany.

Causes

William has gradually taken on more royal responsibilities, including bestowing knighthoods, while also promoting a diverse range of causes. In contrast to previous generations' emphasis on a stiff upper lip, William has promoted initiatives to improve mental health. He has spoken of his “pain like no other pain” at the death of his

mother, Princess Diana, as well as traumatic experiences as an air ambulance pilot.

He has also embraced environmental causes, founding the Earthshot Prize, rewarding people who come up with solutions to the problems threatening the planet. Like his father, William contracted Covid-19 in 2020 and has spoken out against anti-vaccine disinformation. Both he

and Kate were photographed getting jabbed. The couple have embraced social media and their official Twitter, Instagram and YouTube accounts have millions of followers. In August 2022, a YouGov poll put William and Kate as the British public's second and third-favourite royals, trailing only the queen.

“I think William and Kate mirror, in many ways, a young queen and Philip,” said veteran royal correspondent Robert Jobson. “They’re not so young now, but in that respect they will certainly give the monarchy, after such old monarchs, a sense of modernity that is probably needed to help with its continuity,” he told AFP. His father's reign “will be seen as a transition to his son—much younger, more glamorous. And of course, William will be on the throne a lot longer,” he added.

Supportive

Despite a more modern style, William is fiercely supportive of the royal family and its values, and was reportedly furious when Harry said he and their father were “trapped” in a hidebound institution. He also reacted sharply after Harry and Meghan claimed an unnamed royal had asked about their unborn baby's skin color, telling a journalist the Windsors are “very much not a racist family”. In 2021, though, he denied fuelling a rift with his brother following Harry and Meghan's 2018 wedding after a BBC documentary said there was a behind-the-scenes briefing war between the couples. William makes no secret of his distrust of British media, fired by his mother's death while being chased by paparazzi photographers in Paris.

Both he and Harry were furious when a judicial inquiry confirmed that BBC journalist Martin Bashir used false pretences to obtain a bombshell interview with their mother in 1995. William urged the BBC never to air the interview with his mother again, saying it had “contributed significantly to her fear, paranoia and isolation” in her final years. Unveiling a statue of Diana in the summer of 2021, he and Harry said they remembered “her love, strength and character” and “every day, we wish she were still with us”. Showing his strong sense of family connection, William named his daughter Charlotte Elizabeth Diana after “Granny Diana”. —AFP



Was Queen Elizabeth II a media-savvy monarch?

Queen Elizabeth II's coronation-broadcast live for eight straight hours by the BBC in 1953 — was the first major event of the television age. Six decades later, aged 86, she showed a surprising gift for comedy, joining “James Bond” star Daniel Craig for a sketch in which both appeared to parachute into the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics. And she topped British television ratings last year with her final carefully choreographed Christmas message, a tradition she began in 1957.

But did that mean the queen—who often floated above the criticism some of her family attracted—could be considered media-savvy? Royal biographers are divided on how much mental space the queen gave to the media, which she kept at a respectful distance for the seven decades of her reign. She may officially have been the first British royal to embrace social platforms, with 12.3 million Instagram followers, though few believe she ever concerned herself much with her online profile.

‘Real acting’

But she knew how to play a role. Frank Cottrell-Boyce, who co-wrote the action hero sketch at the Olympics, as well as one with beloved fictional character Paddington Bear for her Platinum Jubilee this year, on Friday hailed her “brilliant” comic timing. “That’s real acting going on there. Paddington isn’t really in the room,” he told the BBC of the latter skit, in which the queen claimed she kept a marmalade sandwich in her handbag at all times. She decided early on to embrace mass media, historian Robert Lacey said, following the example of her grandfather George V.

The queen saw radio and television as a “way to talk to directly” to her subjects, he told AFP. Her first radio broadcast came at just 14 when she addressed British children at the start of World War II. Over time, her Christmas speeches evolved from rather stilted affairs in a ballgown to highly sophisticated fireside chats—her office or sitting rooms carefully dressed with family photos to reflect her theme.

‘Innate enticement’

But the queen was less than enthusiastic about letting the cameras behind the curtain to peek at the Windsors' private lives. Royal biographers like Andrew Morton—whose study of her strained relationship with her sister

Margaret appeared last year—suspect the queen's innate reticence didn't help her complicated ties to the media. It was the family themselves that made the first breach when her husband Prince Philip invited the BBC into the Palace in 1969 to film the fly-on-the-wall documentary, “Royal Family”.

The queen's press secretary at the time, William Heseltine, admitted in 2019 that “the queen was a reluctant convert, but became much more aware of the possibilities and was prepared to participate when it came to actual filming”. The documentary was replete with awkward scenes of family barbecues and breakfasts, the royals using Tupperware, and Philip wondering if the queen's father was “mad”. The naturalist David Attenborough, then a top BBC executive, even warned it risked “killing the monarchy”. The film has not been shown since the 1970s, reportedly at the request of the Palace, and has been taken down every time it has appeared on YouTube.

‘Mystique of monarchy’

Despite that experience, historian Morton said the royal family “hitched their wagon to television in the 1980s... and so swapped the mystique of monarchy for what you might call the shallow applause of the studio audience”. The author said the Palace has always tried to portray the royal family “like a swan, gliding beautifully along the surface of British society” despite the dramas going on internally.

Their press office, known as “the Abominable No Man because they always used to say ‘no comment’... defined the agenda,” he told the US public broadcaster PBS. “They defined what was private and what was public and they would move it whenever they wished.” Rather than undermining the institution, the British anti-monarchy group Republic has long claimed that the media and the royals have a symbiotic relationship.

“There is a huge disconnection between the media's portrayal of public attitudes (towards the royals) and how people actually feel,” its head Graham Smith said. He pointed to a poll saying most Britons were “not interested” in the queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations earlier this year. “If this is the public response to a celebration of her reign, then the monarchy will be in serious trouble” with King Charles, he added. —AFP

‘Squid Game’ to compete for Emmys history

Hundreds entered, but only one can triumph: South Korea's “Squid Game” will make a play for Emmys history Monday as it aims to become the first foreign-language television show to win top honors for best drama. The Netflix show—in which misfits and criminals compete for cash in barbaric and fatal versions of schoolyard games—is aiming to follow in the footsteps of Oscar-winning movie “Parasite” with success at TV's top prize gala. It is already the first non-English-language series to earn a best drama series nomination. To convert that into a trophy at the ceremony in Los Angeles, it will need to overcome a previous winner in HBO's “Succession.”

“It's pretty hard to go against that HBO juggernaut,” said Deadline awards columnist Pete Hammond, noting that the cutthroat drama about a powerful clan vying to inherit a media empire secured the most overall nominations with 25. “I do think [‘Squid Game’] is going to win best actor,” said Hammond—an outcome that would make Lee Jung-jae the category's first winner whose performance was not in English. Other shows contending for the night's top drama prizes include Apple TV+ dystopian workplace series “Severance,” starring Adam Scott, and the final season of Netflix's much-lauded crime saga “Ozark.” Zendaya, who became the youngest-ever best actress winner two years ago for hard-hitting teen drama “Euphoria,” is tipped to repeat with her work on the show's sophomore season.

Keaton ‘lock’

Given the penchant of Television Academy voters for honoring previous winners, best comedy series looks like an open goal for season two of Apple TV+'s fish-out-of-water soccer coach “Ted Lasso.” But its star Jason Sudeikis will have to fend off another previous winner for best actor in Bill Hader, whose dark hitman comedy “Barry” returns from a three-year, pandemic-prolonged absence. Jean Smart is also heavily tipped to repeat as best actress for “Hacks,” in which she plays an aging Las Vegas diva forced to reinvent her dated stand-up routine.

By definition, offering some fresh blood are the nominees in the limited series section, which honors shows capped at a single season. Four of the five contenders chronicle real-life scandals. “Dopesick” looks at the US opioid crisis, “The Dropout” recounts the Theranos fraud, “Pam and Tommy” recalls an infamous celebrity sex tape and “Inventing Anna” is inspired by a Russian con artist who scammed upper-crust New York.

But the pundits' favorite in a tight race is “The



In this file photo a pink soldier guard is part of the ambiance at Netflix's “Squid Game” Los Angeles FYSEE Special Event at Netflix FYSEE at Raleigh Studios in Los Angeles, California. —AFP

White Lotus,” a satirical look at hypocrisy and wealth among the guests at a luxury Hawaii hotel. The show—which is bending Emmy rules by returning for a second season, albeit with a largely new cast and location—has a whopping eight acting nominations, including for Jennifer Coolidge. Actors make up the biggest voting branch in the Academy. “I think Michael Keaton has got a lock on actor in a limited series” for “Dopesick,” said Hammond, while Amanda Seyfried's turn as disgraced Theranos boss Elizabeth Holmes in “The Dropout” is likely to prove popular.

‘The Slap’

The ceremony will be hosted by “Saturday Night Live” stalwart Kenan Thompson. It is expected to mark a return to normality, after the Covid-19 crisis forced producers to get creative with recent remote and socially distanced editions. The show takes place at a downtown Los Angeles theater, where A-listers will gather to walk the red carpet for the first major Hollywood awards ceremony since this year's extraordinary Oscars.

Back in March, Will Smith stunned viewers around the world by slapping Chris Rock live on stage for cracking a joke about his wife. Emmy organizers have rejected the suggestion that security will need to be beefed up to prevent a repeat. “I can't imagine that lightning will strike twice,” Academy CEO Frank Scherma told Deadline. “We have smart security. We have people around that make quick decisions... We'll be on the lookout and we'll be smart like we always are.” —AFP

Queen Elizabeth II's style shaped to suit a sovereign



In this file combination of pictures created on October 29, 2021 shows the various colorful outfits worn by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II throughout the decades. —AFP photos



This combination of pictures created in London on July 26, 2021 shows Britain's Queen Elizabeth II attending events wearing a variety of different colored outfits (top left to right) at Buckingham Palace on May 19, 2016, at Victoria Embankment Gardens in London on March 9, 2017, at Buckingham Palace on May 23, 2017, at Heathrow airport on June 23, 2014, at the Royal Ascot on June 22, 2017 (bottom left to right) at Buckingham Palace on June 1, 2017, at Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh on July 4, 2017, at Buckingham Palace on May 21, 2014, at Buckingham Palace on May 16, 2017 and at St Pancras railway station in London on June 5, 2014. Brightly colored outfits, a matching hat and a pristine pair of gloves: Queen Elizabeth II's look was instantly recognizable and a self-created uniform styled to suit her role. During her reign, the monarch tried out every shade in the color chart, from canary yellow to lime green, fuchsia and navy blue. Her inimitable style was developed over the decades by aides and designers, starting with Norman Hartnell, who created her wedding dress when she married Prince Philip in 1947.



In this file photo taken on July 23, 2010 a collection of hats worn by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II to the Royal Ascot races are pictured during a photocall for the "The Queen's Year" exhibition at Buckingham Palace in central London.



In this file photo taken on October 16, 1995 Britain's Queen Elizabeth II (left) and former British Prime Minister Thatcher arrive at Claridge's in London for a dinner to celebrate the former Prime Minister's 70th birthday.



In this file photo taken on July 21, 2016 shows exhibits on display at the "Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style from The Queen's Wardrobe" exhibition inside Buckingham Palace in London.



In this file photo taken on October 19, 2018 Britain's Queen Elizabeth II (left) is shown a display of hats as she tours Fenwick's department store at The Lexicon shopping centre during a visit to Bracknell, west of London.



In this file photo taken on June 15, 2017 Britain's Queen Elizabeth II keeps hold of her handbag as she tours the classrooms at Mayflower Primary School during a visit to Poplar in Tower Hamlets in East London, as part of commemorations to mark the centenary of the bombing of Upper North Street School during the First World War.



In this file photo taken on November 24, 2015 Britain's Queen Elizabeth II attends the inauguration ceremony of the tenth General Synod of the Church of England, at Church House in central London.

Brightly colored outfits, a matching hat and a pristine pair of gloves: Queen Elizabeth II's look was instantly recognizable and a self-created uniform styled to suit her role. During her reign, the monarch tried out every shade in the color chart, from canary yellow to lime green, fuchsia and navy blue. Her inimitable style was developed over the decades by aides and designers, starting with Norman Hartnell, who created her wedding dress when she married Prince Philip in 1947.

Made from duchesse satin and decorated with crystals and 10,000 seed pearls, it was a dazzling sight for a Britain emerging from the wreckage of World War II. Hartnell also made the silk dress she wore for her coronation in 1953. It was embroidered in gold, silver, green and pink, complete with emblems of the countries over which she ruled. The designer later said that he took inspiration from "the sky, the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars and everything that might be embroidered on a dress destined to be historic".

Hardy Amies was the monarch's official dressmaker from 1955 to 1990. "The task of making clothes for the Queen is not an easy one," he said. Amies initially created crisp outfits for her foreign tours, before taking over domestic duties from Hartnell, and was behind the striking pink ensemble she wore on her silver jubilee in 1977. Her look and style in recent decades has been down to Angela Kelly. The daughter of a Liverpool dock worker, Kelly joined the monarch's team of dressers in 1993 and became her personal assistant and senior dresser in 2002, as well as a close confidante.

"We are two typical women," she once said. "We discuss clothes, make-up, jewellery." During the 2020 coronavirus lockdown, Kelly even had to cut and style the queen's hair, she recalled in an officially approved biography "The Other Side of the Coin: The Queen, the Dresser and the Wardrobe".

Dress code

Designing Queen Elizabeth's outfits meant conforming to the royal dress code. "There are not written-down laws but there are kind of traditional old etiquette-plus-protocol rules," former royal butler Grant Harrold, an etiquette expert, told AFP. "She will always wear tights," he said, which will be flesh-colored, while her nail varnish will be pale pink. "You will never see her wearing a skirt—especially at her age—above the knee," he said. As for jewelry, she wore a brooch or a pearl necklace.

There was a practical side to the Queen's dress code, even if it seemed as if she was keeping old traditions

going, by wearing a hat and gloves in public. At 1.63 meters (five foot four inches) tall, the brightly-colored hat allowed her to be picked out in a crowd, likewise her see-through umbrellas and block heels. Harrold also pointed out the gloves served another purpose—"not catching any bugs"—given the dozens of hands she had to shake. Kelly sewed extra layers of lining into the queen's evening gowns to cushion the impact of beading and crystals on her back.

For her day-wear, tiny weights were sewn into the hemlines in case of windy weather. Kelly would also wear in the monarch's new shoes to ensure they were comfortable. However, the hallmark of her style was her bold colors, worn from head to toe. "The Queen is well-known for block-color dressing, using vivid and bold colors to ensure she is easily visible on important occasions," said Caroline de Guitaut, who curated a 2016 Buckingham Palace exhibition entitled "Fashioning a Reign".

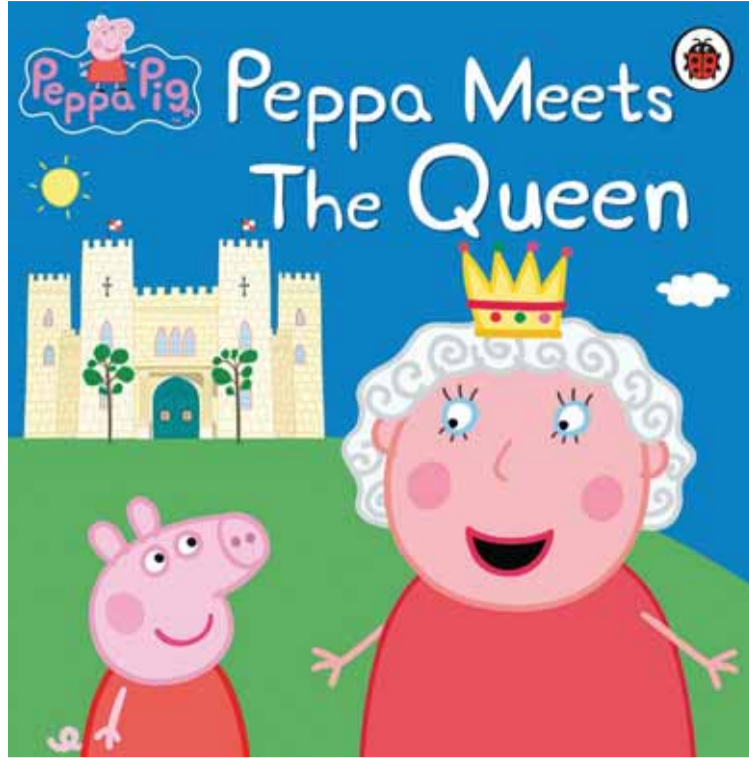
For Michele Clapton, costume designer on the hit Netflix television series "The Crown", her outfits "formed an armor, a uniform". On weekends at one of her country residences, Elizabeth switched style and was often seen wearing a headscarf, raincoat and pair of boots. "People remarked they were amazed at the speed at which she could be with her corgis in the garden at one minute, and then changed, and appearing with her suit, hat, and gloves the next," said Clapton.

Message

Though the sovereign has to remain politically impartial, she used her clothes to convey a message. For example, an Irish clover or a Canadian maple leaf brooch might have been worn on an official visit as a way of honoring her hosts.

The palette would often contain subtle nods to national colors, as on her landmark 2011 visit to Ireland, when she arrived in emerald green. Rumor had it that she also used her Launer handbag—square with a short strap which she apparently had 200 of—to send secret signals to her staff, depending on what she did with it. Discretion was preferred on some sartorial details, however.

In 2018, the luxury lingerie company Rigby & Peller was stripped of its royal warrant after its former owner disclosed details of royal bra fittings in her memoirs. Elizabeth attended her first London Fashion Week in 2018, sitting next to the veteran Vogue magazine editor, Anna Wintour. For the occasion—to present the inaugural "Elizabeth II Fashion Award"—she wore a duck-egg blue dress and jacket. —AFP



The queen in pop culture

From a Sex Pistols single to "The Simpsons", "The Crown" and Andy Warhol works, Queen Elizabeth's pop culture cameos were frequent and often unforgettable. Some depictions were affectionate, others more hostile, but the monarch's indelible image in art, music and film cemented her status as one of the most recognizable people in the world. Here are some of her most memorable appearances:

'God Save The Queen'

With her eyes and mouth covered with collaged words, the cover of the 1977 Sex Pistols single "God Save The Queen" is one of the most iconic images of the punk movement—and of Elizabeth II. The artist, Jamie Reid, also created a version depicting the queen with a safety pin through her mouth and Nazi swastika symbols on her eyes. Of the many other songs about the queen, the gentle "Her Majesty" by The Beatles in 1969 contrasts with "Elizabeth My Dear" on the 1989 debut album by The Stone Roses, where they declared they would not rest until she lost the throne.

"The Queen Is Dead", the title track from the 1986 hit album by The Smiths, featured lead singer Morrissey railing against media fascination with the royal family. "The very idea of the monarchy and the queen of England is being reinforced and made to seem more useful than it really is," Morrissey told NME magazine. "The whole thing seems like a joke. A hideous joke." In 2005, electronic dance act Basement Jaxx imagined the queen on a night out in London for the music video for "You Don't Know Me", showing her visiting a strip club and getting into a fight.

Warhol's silkscreens

The queen sat for numerous artists during her reign, including Cecil Beaton, Lucian Freud and Annie Leibovitz, showing her in full regalia, at work or with her family. But few captured the public imagination like Andy Warhol's Technicolor silkscreens, as part of a 1985 series about reigning queens. Warhol used an official photograph that



In this file photo a woman views silkscreen prints of Queen Elizabeth II by artist Andy Warhol during 'The Queen: Art and Image' exhibition at the Ulster Museum in Belfast, Northern Ireland. —AFP

he customized in a range of colors and styles—a treatment also used to depict stars such as Marilyn Monroe.

Screen time

Readily identified by her cut-glass accent and boldly-colored outfits, the queen was much depicted in cartoons, television shows and films. She popped up several times in cult US series "The Simpsons", including in one episode where the main character, Homer, drove into her golden carriage on the grounds of Buckingham Palace. The monarch featured in British satirical puppet show "Spitting Image" and in children's television hit "Peppa Pig", where she jumped in muddy puddles. She also featured in the movies "Minions", "Austin Powers in Goldmember" and "The Naked Gun" among many others—in some of them played by Jeannette Charles, her most famous British lookalike.

Private life

The queen rarely gave interviews and never retailed details about her most private moments. But cinematic portrayals of the life she was presumed to lead behind the palace gates were many. Laid out in films, plays and television programs, all helped to shape public perceptions of the royal family.

She was depicted as a child in the Oscar-winning movie "The King's Speech", about her father King George VI's struggle to overcome his stammer, and as a monarch, facing public anger after the 1997 death of her daughter-in-law Princess Diana, in "The Queen". One of the most influential was Netflix's big-budget TV series "The Crown", which told in luxurious detail the story of the queen and her husband Philip from before she ascended to the throne, complete with family rows, scandals and political crises.



Olympic spoof

After years of her image being used and abused, the queen took to the screen herself in 2012 in a sketch for the opening ceremony of the London Olympic Games. She was filmed surrounded by her beloved corgis at Buckingham Palace as she met James Bond star Daniel Craig, who was dressed as the suave spy in black tie. "Good evening, Mr Bond", she said, before the pair appeared to get in a helicopter, fly across London and then parachute into the stadium.

In 2016, she also appeared in a video with her grandson Prince Harry which also featured former US president Barack Obama, to promote the prince's veterans sports championship, the Invictus Games. One of her last appearances was with the popular animated children's television character, Paddington Bear, at her Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. The pair shared a love of marmalade sandwiches and tapped out the beat to Queen's anthem "We Will Rock You" to kickstart a star-studded pop concert. —AFP

CROWN JEWELS: THE ROYAL FAMILY'S PRECIOUS GEMS

The Crown Jewels form the centrepiece of the royal coronation, and symbolize the pomp and history of the British monarchy over the centuries.

The Imperial State Crown

The crown was commissioned for king George VI's coronation in 1937. Used for formal events such as the state opening of parliament, Queen Elizabeth II wore it following her coronation ceremony. The crown bears 2,868 diamonds, 269 pearls, 17 sapphires and 11 emeralds. It weighs 1,060 grams (2.3 pounds) and is 31.5 centimeters (12.4 inches) tall. The second-largest stone cut from the Cullinan Diamond—the largest diamond ever mined—adorns the front.

The Sovereign's Sceptre

A gold rod with a globe, cross and dove at the top, the sceptre's design symbolizes the Christian Holy Ghost. It is associated with the monarch's pastoral role towards the people. It weighs 1,150 grams and is 110.2 centimeters long.

The Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross

The sceptre represents the monarch's temporal power and good governance and complements the spiritual power symbolized by the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross. It weighs 1,170 grams and is 92.2 centimeters long. The largest colorless cut diamond in the world, the Cullinan I, reigns at the top. It weighs 106 grams and is known as the "First Star of Africa". The diamond's weight meant the sceptre had to be reinforced in 1910.

The Sovereign's Orb

The orb represents the monarch's power and the Christian world. The gold piece of jewelry is surrounded by a band of diamonds, emeralds, rubies, sapphire and pearls and topped with amethyst and a cross. It is 27.5 centimeters high and weighs 1,320 grams.

The gold Ampulla

The eagle-shaped vessel holds the consecrated oil used in coronation ceremonies. The eagle's head comes off to allow oil to be poured

into the vessel. The design is based on a legend that the Virgin Mary appeared to medieval English saint Thomas Becket and handed him a golden eagle and oil to anoint future English kings. It weighs 660 grams and measures 20.7 x 10.4 centimetres.

The Spurs

Gold, leather, velvet and gold thread make up one of the most ancient parts of Britain's royal coronation paraphernalia. The use of spurs to represent knighthood in coronations dates back to the coronation of Richard I in 1189. Spurs were traditionally fastened to the king's feet during coronation ceremonies but presented and placed on the altar for queens.

The Cullinan Diamond

It was the largest diamond ever mined when discovered in South Africa in 1905, weighing 621 grams in its uncut state. The Transvaal government presented it to King Edward VII on his 66th birthday in 1907 as a gesture of reconciliation.



St Edward's Crown

tion after the Second Boer War (1899-1902). Three employees of Asschers of Amsterdam worked 14-hour days for eight months to cut and polish nine large stones from the original gem. When workers began to cut the diamond, the first blow broke the knife rather than the diamond.

St Edward's Crown

Crown jeweler Robert Viner made it in 1661 for the coronation of king Charles II, after the



The Imperial State Crown

previous medieval crown was melted down by parliamentary rebels in 1649 during the English Civil War. Monarchs did not wear the solid gold crown in coronation ceremonies for more than 200 years as it was too heavy. It weighs 2,040 grams and is 30.2 centimeters tall.

Coronation ring

The ring dates back to the coronation of King William IV in 1831. Queen Victoria did not wear it for her coronation in 1838 as her fingers were too small.

Purple Robe of Estate

Twelve seamstresses from the Royal School of Needlework took 3,500 hours to make it. The robe is made of silk and embroidered with the monarch's cipher, wheat ears and olive branches.

The Stone of Scone

Also known as the "Stone of Destiny", it is the ancient symbol of Scotland's monarchy. The sandstone slab weighs 152 kilograms (335.1 pounds). English king Edward I seized it in 1296 and incorporated it into the throne at Westminster, London. Scottish nationalists stole it from London's Westminster Abbey in 1950 and it later reappeared in Arbroath Abbey, Scotland. It was formally returned to Scotland again for a coronation at Westminster Abbey. —AFP



The gold Ampulla



St Edward's Crown



Coronation ring



Purple Robe of Estate

Sports

Ireland edge England, Samoa trounce USA in WCup Sevens

New Zealand face Argentina in the quarter-finals

CAPE TOWN: Ireland and Samoa eliminated seeded teams to reach the quarter-finals on the first day of the Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament at the Cape Town Stadium on Friday. Ireland beat England, runners-up in the two previous World Cups, 17-5, while Samoa trounced the United States 40-12. Although seedings were based on the 2018 World Cup, neither result was a major shock because both Ireland and Samoa were coming off solid results in the World Rugby Sevens Series which ended last month. England, winners of the inaugural World Cup Sevens in 1993 and runners-up in 2013 and 2018, were starved of the ball as Ireland dominated the first half.

But Ireland had to wait until a minute before half-time to turn their surfeit of possession into points through a converted try by Harry McNulty. Ireland increased their lead almost immediately after half-time with a try by Mark Roche. They put the match beyond reach when Jordan Conroy scored while England were down to six men after Alex Davis was handed a yellow card. The England players wore black armbands following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday.

Overpowered

Paul Scanlon scored two of Samoa's six tries as the islanders outplayed their American opponents, scoring four tries in the second half after leading 14-5 at half-time. Defending champions New Zealand overpowered Scotland 43-5, running in

seven tries, with Akuila Rokolisoa and Amanaki Nicole both scoring twice.

New Zealand have won three of the seven previous World Cups in the seven-man format. Newly-crowned World Series champions Australia had a comfortable 35-0 win against Uruguay, while hosts South Africa beat Chile 32-5. It is the last tournament in charge for South African coach Neil Powell, who will take up a post with the Durban-based Sharks in 15-man rugby after the World Cup.

Powell has coached the Blitzboks to two Commonwealth Games gold medals and three World Series titles but the closest his team has come to a World Cup was a bronze medal in San Francisco in 2018. Fiji, who won the title in 1997 and 2005, were 29-5 victors over Wales. Also through to the quarter-finals were France, who won a tight match 19-12 against Canada, and Argentina, who beat Kenya 22-17. The World Cup is played as a straight knock-out competition, with losing teams relegated to competing for the minor placings.

New Zealand met Argentina in the quarter-finals on Saturday night. They are in the same half of the draw as South Africa, who play against Ireland. The other match-ups are Australia against France and Fiji against Samoa. In the women's championship, strongly-fancied Australia and New Zealand both had big wins, against Madagascar and Colombia respectively, to qualify for the quarter-finals. They were joined by the



CAPE TOWN: Jordan Conroy of Ireland scores a try against England during the Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament in Cape Town on September 9, 2022. —AFP

United States, Canada, Fiji, Ireland, England and France. The women's quarter-final line-up is: Australia v England, United States v Canada, New Zealand v Ireland, France v Fiji. —AFP

Alcaraz faces Ruud for US Open title

NEW YORK: Carlos Alcaraz defeated Frances Tiafoe in a gladiatorial US Open semi-final on Friday, setting up a showdown for the title and world number one ranking against Casper Ruud. The 19-year-old Spaniard triumphed 6-7 (6/8), 6-3, 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 to become the youngest men's Grand Slam finalist since compatriot Rafael Nadal captured the first of his 22 Slams at the 2005 French Open.

Norway's seventh-ranked Ruud earlier defeated Russia's Karen Khachanov 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 to also reach his first Grand Slam final. Tiafoe went down fighting, however, saving three match points and retrieving breaks in both of the last two sets. "We are in the semi-final of a Grand Slam, we have to give everything we have inside, we have to fight until the last ball," said Alcaraz, the youngest US Open finalist since Pete Sampras in 1990.

"It doesn't matter if you're fighting for five hours or six hours. It doesn't matter, you have to give everything on court." For Alcaraz, who unleashed 59 winners, it was his third successive five-setter as he closes in on a maiden Slam and becoming the youngest ever world number one. "It's my first time in a final of a Grand Slam. I can see the number one in the world, but at the same time it's so far away," he added.

'Give everything'

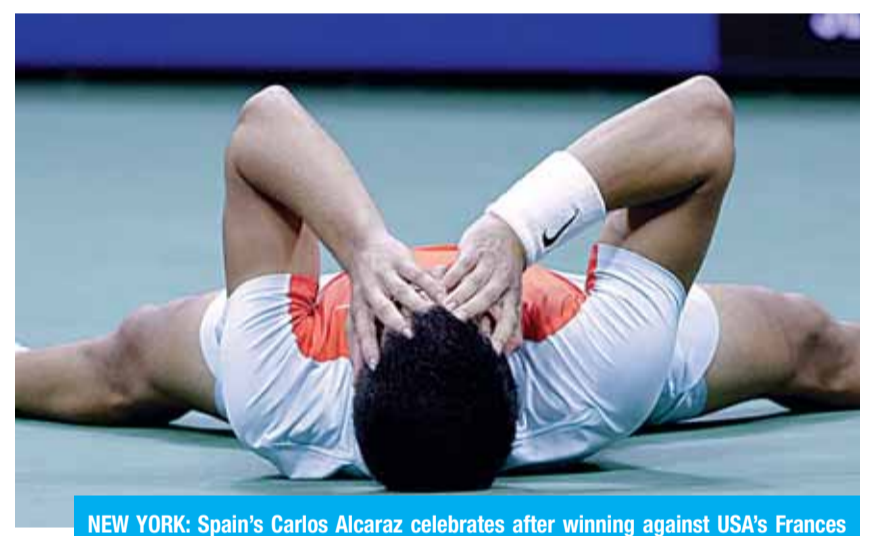
"I'm going to give everything that I have. I will have to handle the nerves of being in the final of a Grand Slam but obviously I'm really happy." Tiafoe hailed his conqueror. "I gave everything I had, too good from Carlos tonight," said Tiafoe. "Honestly I came here wanting to win the US Open. I feel like I let you guys down. This one really hurts."

Alcaraz saw two break points come and go in the seventh game of the opener before needing to save a set point in the 12th which featured a breathtaking rally that the Spaniard claimed from two seemingly losing positions. The teenager saved three more set points in the tiebreak but Tiafoe converted his fifth when Alcaraz served up his third double fault of the 64-minute opener.

Alcaraz saved a break point in the third game of the second set, at one stage stretching for a winning point with his back facing Tiafoe to win another memorable rally. His flamboyance was rewarded when he broke for 4-2 on his way to leveling the semi-final thanks to Tiafoe burying a return in the net. Alcaraz had needed nine hours and 10 sets in his last two rounds, including a quarter-final which finished at 2:50 a.m. Thursday, to reach the semi-final.

Match points saved

However, he looked the fresher of the two men when he raced to a double break, 4-0 lead in the third set, allowing Tiafoe just three points. For good measure, Alcaraz broke the American a third time in the seventh



NEW YORK: Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after winning against USA's Frances Tiafoe during their 2022 US Open Tennis tournament men's singles semi-final match on September 9, 2022. —AFP

game. World number 26 Tiafoe, who knocked Nadal out of the tournament in the last-16, was hoping to become the first American man in a major final since Andy Roddick at Wimbledon in 2009.

He gamely retrieved two breaks in the fourth set, saved a match point in the 10th game with a nerveless drop shot before claiming the tiebreak to send the clash into a decider. It was an eighth successful tiebreak out of eight for the American. Alcaraz broke for 2-0 in the fifth set only for Tiafoe to again claw his way back to 2-2.

The American, however, double-faulted to hand the advantage back in the fifth game. Tiafoe saved two more match points in the ninth game before Alcaraz went on to seal vic-

tory in four hours and 19 minutes when his opponent netted a weary backhand. Ruud will be appearing in his second Grand Slam final of the season after finishing runner-up to Nadal at the French Open in June.

"After Roland Garros, I was extremely happy but at the same time humble enough to think that could be my only final in a Grand Slam in my career," said Ruud. "They don't come easy. So here I am a couple of months later - it feels beyond words to describe." The 23-year-old Norwegian set the tone for his dominance early in the semi-final when he came out on top in a 55-shot rally to convert a third set point in the opening tiebreak which his Russian rival described as "crazy". —AFP



TALAVERA DE LA REINA: Team Trek's Danish rider Mads Pedersen cycles ahead of Team Bahrain's British rider Fred Wright (L) before the finish line during the 19th stage of the 2022 La Vuelta cycling tour of Spain, a 138.3 km race from Talavera de la Reina on September 9, 2022. —AFP

Pedersen wins Vuelta 19th stage as leader Evenepoel stays safe

PIORNAL: Mads Pedersen surged away from his sprint rivals on Friday to take the 19th stage, his third victory in the last seven Vuelta a Espana stages, while race leader Remco Evenepoel finished comfortably in the pack. Pedersen, a Dane who rides for Trek, powered away from Fred Wright and Belgian Gianni Vermeersch, to take the 138.3km stage that began and ended in Talavera de la Reina in central Spain.

With two stages to race, Belgian Evenepoel of Quick-Step remained two minutes and seven seconds ahead of Spaniard Enric Mas and 5min 14sec clear of third-placed Juan Ayuso. The stage ended in a sprint after the pack reeled in a powerful breakaway. "It was very hard to control the peloton, the team did an impressive job," said Pedersen. "I have to say thank you to the guys because without them I had no chance to win today."

Evenepoel said he had done a deal with the winner to help ensure the pack finished together. "This was the perfect race," said Evenepoel. "I promised Mads to control the breakaway with him, so we did our job." On Tuesday, when his closest rival Primoz Roglic suffered a race-ending crash, Evenepoel also had a scare when he punctured. But the Belgian was given the same time as the main bunch because he was less than 3km from the finish when he stopped.

He said those events were on his mind on Friday and he was just aiming to make it to the last 3km "in case I would get a flat tyre or a bike problem. It's just to stay safe, because tomorrow is the last day and the biggest fear today was to have a crash or to be unlucky. So that's why we were trying to stay in front." "Then, the last 1.3km was a straight line, so then I could slow a bit down and just follow the wheels." Saturday's 20th and penultimate stage is a 181km run from Moralzarzal to Puerto de Navacerrada through the Guadarrama range north of Madrid. It includes five climbs which will give Evenepoel's rivals one last chance to attack.

'Crazy day'

"I think tomorrow will be a very crazy day," said mountains classification leader Richard Carapaz of Ineos. Sunday's final stage is a short, flat ride into Madrid. Meanwhile Roglic, the three-time defending Vuelta champion, on Friday blamed Wright for his crash. Barely 100m from the line on Tuesday, Roglic, sprinting for victory and bonus points, made contact with Wright, lost control at high speed, smashed onto the tarmac and suffered injuries that forced him to abandon. "This was not okay," Roglic said in an interview published on the web site of his Jumbo-Visma team. "The way this crash happened is unacceptable," Roglic said. —AFP

Sri Lanka overpower Pakistan in Asia Cup final dress rehearsal

DUBAI: Spinner Wanindu Hasaranga led Sri Lanka's bowling charge to set up a comfortable five-wicket victory over Pakistan on Friday in their dress rehearsal for the Asia Cup final. Both teams have already booked their place in Sunday's title clash at the warm-up tournament to the T20 World Cup in October-November. Hasaranga returned figures of 3-21 with his leg-spin to help bowl out Pakistan for 121 in 19.1 overs after Sri Lanka elected to field first in Dubai.

Sri Lanka slipped to 29-3 in their chase before Pathum Nissanka (55 not out) and Bhanuka Rajapaksa (24) put on a stand of 51 as the island nation achieved their target with three overs to spare. The left-handed Rajapaksa fell after his 19-ball knock but Nissanka stood firm and Hasaranga hit the winning runs as Sri Lanka registered their fourth straight victory.

"The confidence we have is massive after four consecutive wins, but we still don't take Pakistan lightly in the final," skipper Dasun Shanaka, who turned 31 on Friday, told reporters. "We know they are a very good side and enough good players in their side to come back strong and we should be ready for that." Pakistan skipper Babar Azam said the game was a "good learning experience" ahead of the final. It was the Sri Lankan bowlers who began their team's domination of the match as debutant fast bowler Pramod Madushan struck in his first over.

He sent the in-form Mohammad Rizwan, who is second to Virat Kohli in the tournament's run-scoring charts, back to the pavilion for 14. Chamika Karunaratne ended Fakhar Zaman's stay on 13 and



DUBAI: Pakistan's Iftikhar Ahmed is bowled by Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga during the Asia Cup Twenty20 international cricket Super Four match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on September 9, 2022. —AFP

Pakistan slipped further when Hasaranga bowled Azam. Azam, who has struggled in the tournament with scores of 10, 9, 14 and nought in his previous innings, began with a delightful straight drive for four but could not produce a match-defining score.

'Talented' Nissanka

Pakistan kept losing wickets and Hasaranga finished his spell with two successive wickets to flatten the opposition batting, which survived only 19.1 overs despite a late cameo of 26 by Mohammad Nawaz. "I am really happy because last few games I went for some runs," Hasaranga said. "Have come back strong with some good quality wickets, so happy. I tried bowling dot balls in first few overs, that's why the three wickets came."

Spinner Maheesh Theekshana and Madushan took two wickets each. Pakistan's fast bowlers took

three early wickets to put Sri Lanka on the back foot before Nissanka and Rajapaksa put the chase back on track. Mohammad Hasnain gave his team a dream start when he dismissed Kusal Mendis for a first-ball duck with the second ball of the innings.

Fellow quick Haris Rauf got a wicket in each of his first two overs to send back Danushka Gunathilaka, for nought, and Dhananjaya de Silva, for nine. Nissanka then got going with Rajapaksa and despite losing his partner after a strong stand, reached his seventh T20I fifty for Sri Lanka. He was then joined by Shanaka, who made 21 off 16 balls before falling to Hasnain. "He has got a great career ahead and a very talented guy," Shanaka said of Nissanka. Pre-tournament favorites India, who lost two of their three Super Four matches, crashed out after Afghanistan lost to Pakistan on Wednesday. —AFP

Sports

Deepening Tokyo Olympics bribery scandal casts shadow over 2030 bid

Former Tokyo 2020 executive Takahashi arrested

TOKYO: A bribery scandal engulfing last summer's pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games has thrown a dark cloud over Sapporo's 2030 bid and raised fresh questions in Japan about hosting the Olympics again. Former Tokyo 2020 executive Haruyuki Takahashi was arrested on suspicion of bribery in August and more allegations were leveled against him last week in a widening investigation into corruption at the heart of the Games.

The scandal comes at a bad time for the northern Japanese city of Sapporo, which is bidding to host the 2030 Winter Olympics. Sapporo staged the Games in 1972 and is seen as a frontrunner despite competition from Vancouver and Salt Lake City. Sapporo mayor Katsuhiko Akimoto and Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) president Yasuhiro Yamashita were scheduled to visit International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne to talk up the bid later this month.

The delegation last week cancelled the trip, with Yamashita blaming a scheduling issue. Akimoto said that it had "nothing to do with the bribery case surrounding the Tokyo Olympics". But the controversy has topped the headlines in Japan's leading newspapers and prosecutors have

carried out fresh raids in recent days.

Takahashi, a 78-year-old former senior managing director of Japanese advertising giant Dentsu, is suspected of accepting bribes in return for helping companies become official Tokyo Games sponsors. Former and current executives from business suit retailer Aoki Holdings and major publishing firm Kadokawa have also been arrested. And local media reports say Takahashi has claimed he gave money to then-Tokyo 2020 president Yoshiro Mori, a former Japanese prime minister.

The controversy has helped rekindle anti-Olympic sentiment in Japan, which saw a swell of opposition to holding the Tokyo Games in the middle of a pandemic. The Asahi Shimbun daily in an editorial urged Sapporo to "hold off" on its 2030 bid until the scandal had been "resolved". It said the Japanese public view the Olympics "with mistrust and suspicion". Last year, the Asahi called for the Tokyo Olympics to be cancelled just two months before they were set to begin, accusing IOC officials of being "self-righteous".

Making a meal of it?

For all the domestic attention on the scandal,

experts are doubtful it will have any impact when the IOC comes to choosing a 2030 host. With cities ever more reluctant to assume the expense and controversy of hosting a Games, the IOC cannot afford to be picky.

"If Sapporo come forward, they have a very strong bid from a technical perspective," said Michael Payne, who as director of IOC marketing from 1989-2004 is widely credited with transforming the organization's brand and finances through sponsorship. "I think of this very much as a local, political issue. It raised eyebrows as to why they're making such a meal out of what frankly is minor sponsor influence-peddling." Sapporo 2030 chiefs have been keen to get the Japanese public on side.

Despite the misgivings of some, a survey conducted earlier this year found that a majority of people on the island of Hokkaido, where the city is located, were in favor of hosting the Games. The city of Sapporo has, however, ruled out holding a referendum. Sports economist Andrew Zimbalist believes the scandal will "continue to be an issue in Japan" but will "fade away in international memory". He predicted that Japanese officials would "simply acknowledge to the IOC that they had

some bad actors involved and that they're going to clean it up".

Strong bid

Underlining public concern, Sapporo mayor Akimoto and JOC president Yamashita on Thursday signed a joint declaration promising to hold a "clean" bid free from corruption. Zimbalist thinks a recent change in the Olympic bidding process will help distance Sapporo from the Tokyo scandal because it won't be in the spotlight as much. Previously, cities were required to put together costly bids and were pitted against each other before a vote determined the winner.

Now the process largely takes place away from the glare of publicity, and there is flexibility about how many candidates are involved and when a host is chosen. There is no firm date when a 2030 host will be announced. "The IOC doesn't want to get into a situation where a country is hosting the Games that doesn't have a solid government, that doesn't have a solid economy, that doesn't have reliable weather," said Zimbalist. "Sapporo has so many things going for it that it will far outweigh the fading memory of this scandal." — AFP



Kuwait Football League wrap-up

KUWAIT: Salmiya Football Club defeated Al-Sahel during their third round match of Zain Kuwait football league on Thursday. Salmiya's Jumaa Saeed headed his team's first goal in the 16th minute while Sangpierre Mendy scored the second goal in the 78th minute of the match. Meanwhile Abdelmohsen Al-Ajmi scored Al-Sahel's only goal in the 88th minute.

Salmiya now have seven points while Al-Sahel remain pointless. In the second match on Thursday, between Fahaheel and Nasr, the first goal of the match was scored by Nasr's Mohammad Duhar in the 28th minute as referee Mustafa Al-Shatti showed Nasr's player Fahad Al-Enezi a red card in the 17th minute. Fahaheel players were not able to

respond during the first half, but in the latter part of the second half, substitute Abdallah Al-Dhafiri scored the equalizer in the 79th minute. Fahaheel's Fawaz Al-Rashidi then scored the second goal and the third goal just before the end of game.

Meanwhile, Tadhamon Football Club had their first win on Friday by defeating Jahra 1-0. Tadhamon goal was scored from the penalty spot in the seventh minute following a foul by Jahra goal keeper Bader Al-Saanoon. The final match on Friday was between Qadisiya and Kazma which saw Qadisiya losing 1-3 at home. Kazma was able to reach Qadisiya's zone easily and were able to score the first goal in the 33rd minute. A second goal was scored by Shibeeb Al-Khaldi in the 51st minute. In the 54th minute, Al-Khaldi scored again. Also, Qadisiya scored their only goal in the 70th minute as Bader Al-Mutawa scored from the penalty spot. Kazma now have 7 points, while Qadisiya have 6 points.

Cleveland Browns reached a fully guaranteed \$230 million deal with Deshaun Watson in March, over \$40 million more than is guaranteed in the next-highest contract between Kyler Murray and Arizona. Jackson said Wednesday it wouldn't be riskier playing this season than it has been any other, although he has taken 737 hits since his 2018 debut, the most of any NFL quarterback. "It was a pretty big risk last season, the year before," Jackson said. "I wasn't thinking about contract negotiations around that time."

"This season, it's going to be the same thing, but I'm just playing football. Anything can happen, but God forbid the wrong thing happens." Jackson, the unanimous NFL 2019 Most Valuable Player, has a 37-12 record as the Ravens' starting quarterback in the past four seasons but the club is only 2-5 without him. In 2019, Jackson set records for NFL quarterbacks with 1,206 yards rushing and 176 carries while throwing for 3,127 yards and a personal best 36 touchdowns.

Baltimore has managed only one win in three trips to the playoffs with Jackson and the Ravens missed the post-season altogether last year, going 8-9 while Jackson struggled with five missed games, four with an ankle injury, and a career-worst 13 interceptions. Jackson does not have an agent, meaning he spoke directly with DeCosta about a new deal. "I'm comfortable, but it's probably different because it's your quarterback, and not an NFL agent," Jackson said Wednesday. "I've been pretty cool. Eric has been pretty cool with it." — AFP

Ravens unable to reach new NFL contract deal with Jackson

WASHINGTON: Lamar Jackson has rejected contract offers from the Baltimore Ravens and the 25-year-old star quarterback will play the upcoming NFL season on the final year of his original deal. The Ravens confirmed Friday that the two sides were unable to agree terms of a new deal before Jackson's self-imposed deadline ahead of the team's Sunday start of the campaign. "Despite best efforts on both sides, we were unable to reach a contract extension with Lamar Jackson," Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta said. "We greatly appreciate how he has handled this process and we are excited about our team with Lamar leading the way."

"We will continue to work towards a long-term contract after the season, but for now we are looking forward to a successful 2022 campaign." It's a gamble for both sides. Jackson, known for his skillful passing combined with flashy runs, would have no guarantee should he be injured. The Ravens could lose him to free agency or be forced to make him a franchise player, a one-year deal with a salary among the NFL's highest at the position. Jackson will make \$23.016 million this season in his fifth-year option off his rookie contract.

A deal was made tougher to strike when the

Kuwait's first Martial Arts Championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Ambassador of Thailand to Kuwait Rooge Thammongkol has lauded the idea of organizing Kuwait's first Martial Arts Championship on September 24. This will include 13 bouts in Muay Thai and boxing for amateurs and professionals. The Ambassador spoke during his meeting with World Boxing Council (WBC) representative in Kuwait Mishal Al-Fajji and Chairman of Muay Thai Committee Abdelsalam Al-Sindi.

The Ambassador was pleased with organiz-

ing such major sports event - being the first of its kind in Kuwait. He said he will extend all types of support to ensure the success of the championship. "We are keen on a positive and effective participation in organizing the next Muay Thai championship. We will coordinate with related bodies in Thailand to organize training camps to train Kuwait National Muay Thai team," he added.

Ambassador Thammongkol said the embassy plans a tour to promote the sport of Muay Thai next year and will have high level competitions for this ancient Thai sport with the participation of several champions and best coaches to celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Thailand. Meanwhile Mishal Al-Fajji said the organizing committee is keen on achieving success of Kuwait first Martial Arts Championship, to be an ideal start of organizing many international Muay Thai in the near future.



Thai Ambassador with Al-Fajji and Al-Sindi

Atalanta aim to hold lead in Italy

MILAN: Atalanta host Cremonese on Sunday as shock early leaders of Serie A after a fast start which appears to be gathering pace. Out on their own at the top of the pile for the first time since 1964, Atalanta have collected 13 points from their first five matches, with their only dropped points coming in a draw with champions AC Milan.

Another fixture against promoted fellow Lombards, after last weekend's straightforward 2-0 win at Monza, offers Gian Piero Gasperini's side the perfect chance to consolidate their lead. Unlike the rest of their rivals in the upper reaches of Serie A, Atalanta don't have any European commitments after finishing a disappointing eighth last season.

That gives them a huge advantage ahead of the World Cup, with domestic and continental commitments packed into an extremely tight schedule

English cricket says farewell to Queen

LONDON: The Oval has known many 'departures' given it often stages the last Test of an English cricket season, with Australia great Don Bradman and former England captain Alastair Cook taking their leave of the international stage at the ground. But the south London venue fell silent on Saturday before the start of the third day's play in the third Test between England and South Africa for a farewell of a very different sort as the ground paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

The death of Britain's longest-serving monarch at the age of 96 on Thursday had led the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to abandon Friday's play. And with Thursday's opening day washed out, it meant what should have been a five-day match had now been reduced to a three-day game. Unlike their counterparts at English football's Premier League, who have suspended their fixtures this

before the Qatar tournament gets under way in November. Also boosting the Bergamo outfit is the way young gun Rasmus Hojlund slotted into the team at Monza, linking up with fellow new boy Ademola Lookman to net on his first start after arriving for 17 million euros from Sturm Graz.

The 19-year-old Dane has been compared to Manchester City star Erling Haaland and will be key to Atalanta holding off Napoli and AC Milan, both two points back and in high spirits. Napoli can take the provisional lead of Italy's top flight as they kick off the weekend's fixtures with the visit of Spezia, fresh from their 4-1 demolition of Liverpool.

Luciano Spalletti's side have re-emerged as title challengers after a turbulent summer left them looking like a club deep in crisis, with star players leaving and fans begging owner Aurelio De Laurentiis to sell. The impact of new arrivals, in particular Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Kim Min-jae, has changed Napoli from a team supposedly in transition to one which has shown enough to suggest their first league title since the days of Diego Maradona is a possibility. — AFP

weekend, the ECB decided to resume play Saturday.

'Incredible inspiration'

"It's been very sad news for not only the nation but the world with the Queen's passing," England captain Ben Stokes told Sky Sports before play resumed. "She was someone who dedicated her life to the nation, someone that we take incredible inspiration from and we are honored to be able to walk out on the field in memory of the Queen." The all-rounder added: "We know how much the Queen loved this sport, and the show must go on. I'm sure she'll be looking down on all the sport that's still going ahead over this weekend and that we're going out there in her honor. I'm very pleased and proud we can do that." As spectators took their seats at the Oval, they would have noticed a few changes, with the usual advertising signs on the perimeter hoardings replaced by black and white messages marking the death of the Queen. Then, ten minutes before the scheduled start of play at 11:00 am (1000 GMT), the players and match officials—all wearing black armbands as a sign of respect—walked onto the outfield through a military guard of honor. — AFP

Bayern held for third straight draw; Leipzig crush Dortmund

Wolfsburg record their first win of the season



MUNICH: Bayern Munich's Moroccan defender Noussair Mazraoui (left) and Stuttgart's French midfielder Naouirou Ahamada vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match on September 10, 2022. — AFP

BERLIN: A goal from French teenager Mathys Tel was not enough as Bayern Munich were held 2-2 at home to Stuttgart, their third Bundesliga draw in a row. In just his second start for Munich, Tel became the youngest goalscorer for the club when he gave the German champions a 1-0 lead at half time. Tel is 17 years and 136 days, 69 days younger than the previous holder of the honor, Jamal Musiala when he scored against Schalke two years ago. Tel broke Stuttgart's stubborn resistance 36 minutes into the opening half, side-footing the ball under visiting keeper Florian Mueller after some superb lead-up work from Alphonso Davis.

Stuttgart looked to have equalized early into the second half when Serhou Guirassy swept the ball in from close range, but the goal was chalked off by

VAR for a seemingly innocuous foul on Joshua Kimmich in the lead-up. The visitors did not need to wait long to score their first however, with Chris Fuehrich's 57th-minute rocket giving Manuel Neuer no chance in goal.

Sensing a resurgent energy in the visitors, Bayern quickly struck back through Musiala, now 19, who once again demonstrated his calm and assured presence, holding off two defenders to score his third of the season. With one eye on Tuesday's visit from Robert Lewandowski's Barcelona, Bayern looked to take the energy out of the match, bringing on several changes and dominating possession, before a late foul from Matthijs de Ligt brought Guirassy to the spot. The Guinean slammed the ball into the top right corner of the net to give his side their fifth draw

from six matches this season.

Rose dominates former club

In Leipzig, one-time Dortmund coach Marco Rose secured a win against his former side in just his first match in charge, with a 3-0 victory. Rose coached Dortmund to second in the 2021-22 season before being let go in favour of current boss Edin Terzic, was only appointed Leipzig coach on Thursday after the sacking of Domenico Tedesco.

While Dortmund started brightly, Willi Orban gave a jubilant Leipzig the lead after just six minutes with a towering header. Leipzig's Hungarian midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai made it 2-0 just before halftime with a swerving strike from outside the box, before former Chelsea striker Timo Werner

set up Amadou Haidara in the dying stages of the match to give the home side a dominant victory. The visitors, who had the chance to go outright first on the ladder with a win, now sit in fourth place with three games left to come this round.

Hoffenheim ran out dominant victors at home against a ten-man Mainz, with a 4-1 win to go to second on the ladder. In Frankfurt, Wolfsburg recorded their first win of the season - and their debut Bundesliga victory under former Bayern coach Niko Kovac - with a narrow 1-0 victory over Eintracht. Elsewhere, Bayer Leverkusen's woes continued, held to a 2-2 draw away at lowly Hertha Berlin. Tipped as an outside chance for the title at the start of the season, Leverkusen could end the round as low as 17th depending on other results. — AFP

WCup stadium tested with first sellout crowd

LUSAIL: The \$675 million stadium that Qatar will use for this year's World Cup final was put through its first sellout test Friday with a match between the Egyptian and Saudi champions. Seventy-two days from the start of the tournament, organizers said the 80,000 capacity Lusail Iconic Stadium was full for the pre-match concert by Egyptian superstar Amr Diab and the game in which Al Hilal beat Egyptians Zamalek on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Lusail was the last stadium to be officially inaugurated and Hassan Al-Thawadi, head of the Qatari organizing committee, said it was "an emotional moment". "It is the culmination of a 13-year journey," he

told beIN Sports. The stadium, shaped like a traditional Arabic bowl, is at the heart of a new city being built north of the tiny Gulf state's capital.

It will host 10 World Cup matches, including the December 18 final. No more games are planned before the tournament starts on November 20 however. The game was a test run for security, the border immigration system and the multi-billion dollar driverless train metro that will take the strain, ferrying more than one million fans around Doha during the World Cup.

To take pressure off the main international airport, Qatar this week reopened an old airport that had been kept for use by the ruling family and other VIPs. Hundreds of Saudi and Egyptian fans crossed the Abu Samra frontier in buses, after leaving their cars on the Saudi side.

All had to apply for a special fan ID, the Hayya card, that all supporters will need to enter Qatar during the World Cup. The processing system in a tent at Abu

Samra was being used for the first time. Qatari authorities are expecting thousands of Saudis to support their national team during the tournament. "We entered with just our passport and the Hayya card," said Muhammad Mujahid, an Egyptian living in Saudi Arabia. "It was simple and well-organized." "We hope that this is a promising start for a good World Cup for all the Arab world," said another Zamalek supporter Ahmed Mohi El-Din Othman.

FIFA's decision in 2010 to award the World Cup to Qatar has been criticized because of the mega-rich nation's treatment of foreign workers and the LGBTQ community. But FIFA president Gianni Infantino has said it will be the "best-ever" World Cup and that foreign fans will have an experience like a "child going to Disneyland for the first time and seeing the attractions and the toys". FIFA says that 2.45 million of the three million tickets have been sold and that a final round of online sales will be held later this month. — AFP



DOHA: Hilal's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Lusail Super Cup football match between Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal and Egypt's Zamalek at the Lusail Stadium on the outskirts of Qatar's capital Doha on September 9, 2022. — AFP

Football shutdown after Queen's death slammed

LONDON: English football chiefs have been criticized for postponing all matches this weekend following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, with the decision labeled a "missed opportunity" to pay tribute to the nation's longest-serving monarch. After the Queen died aged 96 on Thursday, the Premier League opted to cancel this weekend's fixtures in consultation with the British government. Football chiefs were told by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on Friday that there was no obligation to cancel or postpone sporting fixtures during the national mourning period.

But the Premier League felt it was the right move to honor the Queen for her "extraordinary life and contribution to the nation". The second tier Championship, as well as Leagues One and Two, followed the Premier League in postponing this weekend's matches. It was not just professional football as all amateur Saturday and Sunday leagues across the UK, including youth football, were called off.

However, the England and Wales Cricket Board started England's third Test against South Africa on Saturday after the first day's play was rained off and the second postponed due to the Queen's death. The deciding Test of the series will be staged over three days at the Oval, with a minute's silence observed in memory of the Queen and the first rendition at a sporting event of "God Save the King" - Britain's new altered national anthem given Charles III is the new monarch.

Other sports have also resumed this weekend, with Premiership rugby union fixtures, Super League

games, the PGA Championship golf tournament and Sunday's Great North Run all scheduled. Horse racing, the sport the Queen was most closely associated with, will also resume on Sunday with the St Leger, one of the five English classics and which her horse Dunfermline won in 1977, the feature race at Doncaster.

Former Liverpool and England striker Peter Crouch questioned football's temporary shutdown, tweeting: "I know it's only a game and some things are much bigger but imagine all our games went ahead this weekend. 'Black armbands, silences observed, national anthem, Royal band playing etc to the millions around the world watching? Isn't that a better send off?'"

Manchester United, West Ham and Arsenal had all paid tribute to the Queen by wearing black armbands and holding a minute's silence in their European matches on Thursday evening. West Ham fans even sang 'God save the Queen' throughout their match

against FCSB at the London Stadium. The opportunity for a similar show of respect from the rest of English football has been denied by the postponements.

Television personality Piers Morgan, a noted Arsenal fan, wrote on social media: "Ridiculous decision. Sporting events should go ahead. a) The Queen loved sport and b) It would be great to see/hear huge crowds singing the National Anthem in tribute to Her Majesty, as West Ham fans did so magnificently last night." Former Manchester United and England defender Gary Neville replied saying: "I agree Piers. Sport can demonstrate better than most the respect the Queen deserves."

Fans were equally frustrated at being denied the opportunity to pay tribute to the Queen. A Football Supporters' Association statement said: "We believe football is at its finest when bringing people together at times of huge national significance - be those moments of joy or moments of mourning. — AFP